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The Epstein Class

A Window Into the Deep State

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From the Publisher

Honest Coverage of Important Events

The task of a publisher is complicated when major stories break at the same time. How to separate facts from rumors? How to interpret what is happening? And which story should receive priority? At *The New American* we have a long record of cautious journalism. We always try our best not to be swayed by the vagaries of the news. We try to focus on truth and substance over misinformation and perception, which is why our headlines do not always align with the latest sensational story dominating the legacy and social media. At the same time, we recognize that lurid headlines have long served as very effective weapons of mass distraction, and sometimes must claim some of our attention, if only to set the record straight.

The two stories dominating the news cycle right now — the Epstein scandal and the Iran war — are cases in point. Before February 28, we intended to devote most of this issue to the Epstein files and their fallout, not because of their sensationalistic, stomach-churning content, but because of the unprecedented view that they give us of the amoral elites, our would-be ruling class, and their secret abominations. Not since Covid has an event so galvanized and red-pilled the American public, and, as with Covid, *The New American* needs to be at the forefront of coverage and analysis. After all, even the well-informed are tempted to see the machinations of the Deep State and other criminal, conspiratorial elites purely as political and perhaps financial movements, motivated by power and greed. They are all of that, but at the foundation they are moral and spiritual in nature, and their chief actors constitute an Amoral Minority with a staggering amount of power, influence, and — as the Epstein saga is showing — utter unaccountability to the laws that govern the rest of us. In preparing the materials for coverage of *l'Affaire Epstein*, we have taken great pains to present enough so that the magnitude of the evil is sufficiently depicted, but not so much as to descend into journalistic voyeurism.

Then came February 28 and Operation Epic Fury. Whether or not this event was deliberately timed to banish Epstein from the news cycle and replace him with patriotic razzle-dazzle, the fact is that we have been thrust into a war so consequential that every other story (not just Epstein) has disappeared from the news cycle. And while events in the Middle East are still unfolding, it is not too soon to offer at least a preliminary perspective. In future issues we will have much more to say about this inflection-level event, and some at least will depend upon whether it turns into yet another "classic blunder" (another "land war in Asia" that Vizzini warned about, tongue in cheek, in *The Princess Bride*) or whether it achieves the desired regime change within a few weeks, with Iran and the rest of the Middle East the better off for it. But regardless of which way the dogs of war ultimately lunge, some things are already beyond dispute. Foremost among them is that this war, whatever its motives, is a war of choice initiated by President Trump, and without congressional or constitutional countenance. This is not to say that its stated aims, which include the overthrow of one of the world's worst and most oppressive governments, a sworn foe of the United States, are not laudable. The bloodbath unleashed by Tehran's tyrants in January must rank as one of the worst such in history. And revolutionary Iran's 47-year history has been replete with atrocities.

But none of these factors mitigate or alter the illegality of Trump's actions. To be sure, Operation Epic Fury is but the latest in a long history of anti-constitutional war-making. But the sins of the present are not consecrated by bad precedents; the Constitution is very clear on the division of war powers. Congress, per Article I, Section 8, gets to deliberate on and authorize war, and the executive branch gets to, well, execute. Only in times of imminent threat may the president act unilaterally. And this isn't some type of Venezuela-esque extraction, either; it's all-out war, and everybody knows it.

In the weeks and months ahead, we certainly wish our troops, and the long-suffering Iranian people, well. But, regardless of the outcome, this war is constitutionally challenged, and it is our duty to point that out.

(Because of the gravity of world events, we have delayed this month's installation of Dr. Duke Pesta's culture series. The series will resume in the June issue.) ■

STEVE BONTA
Publisher

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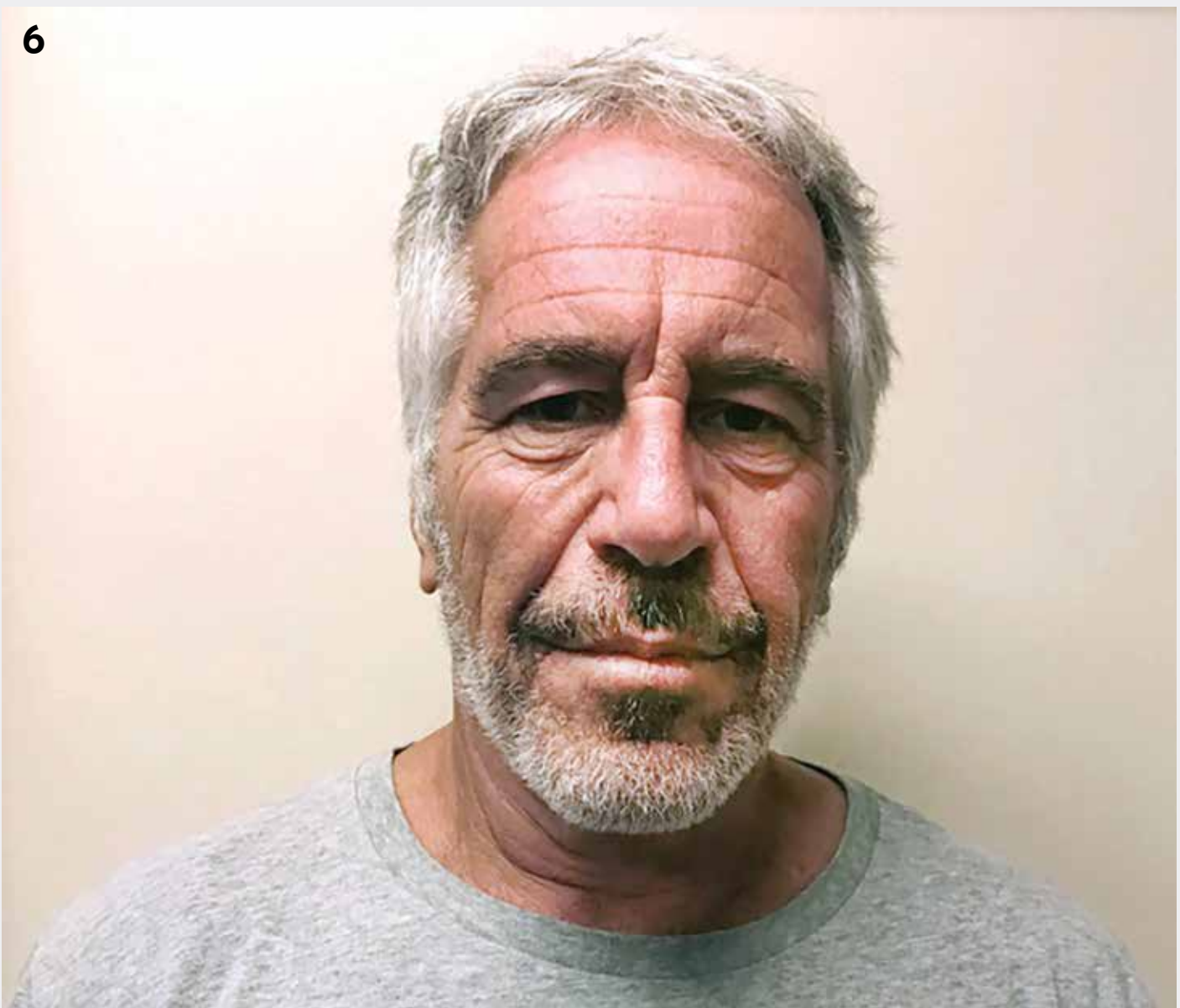
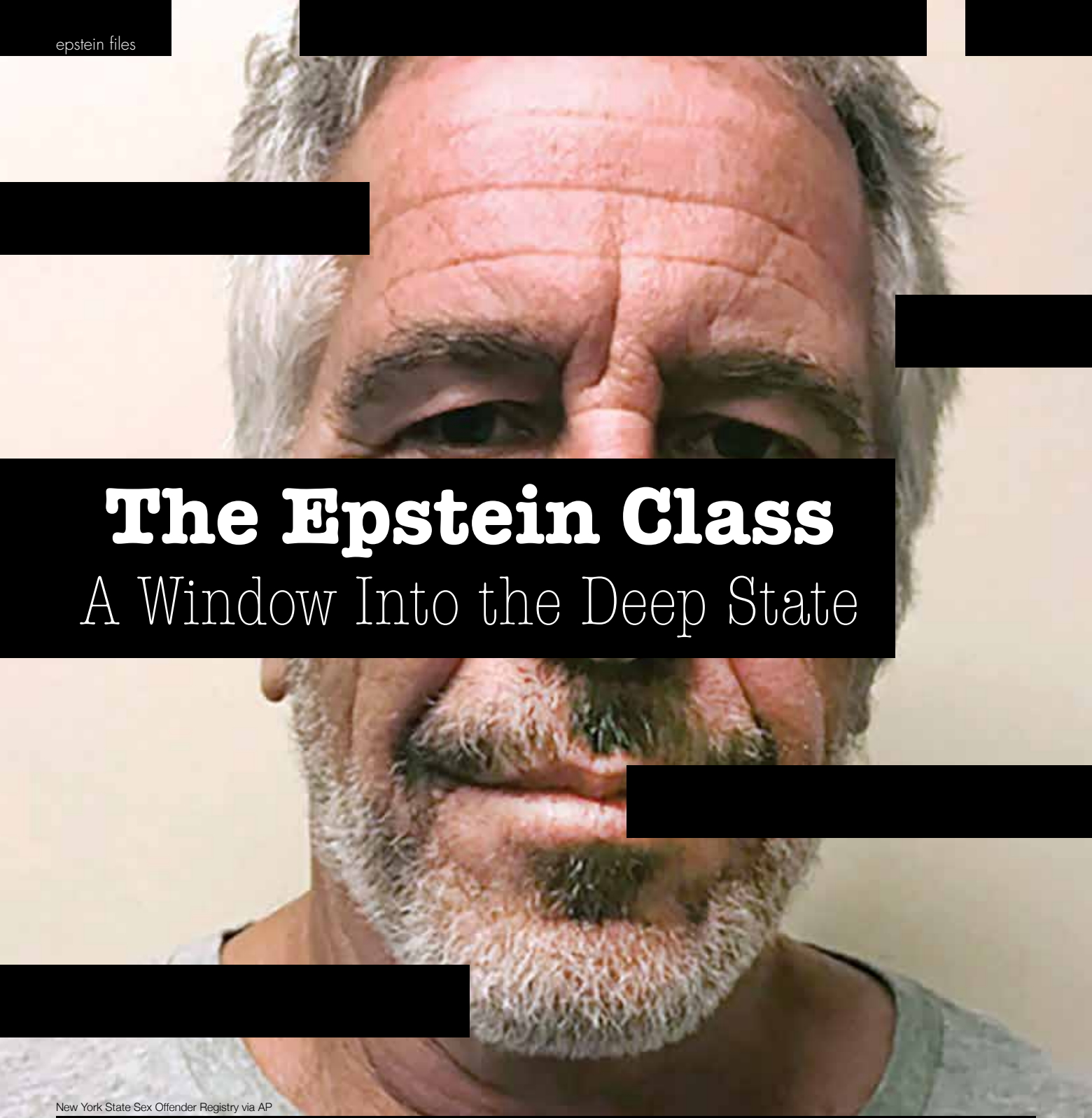
AP Photo



New York State Sex Offender Registry via AP

The Epstein Class

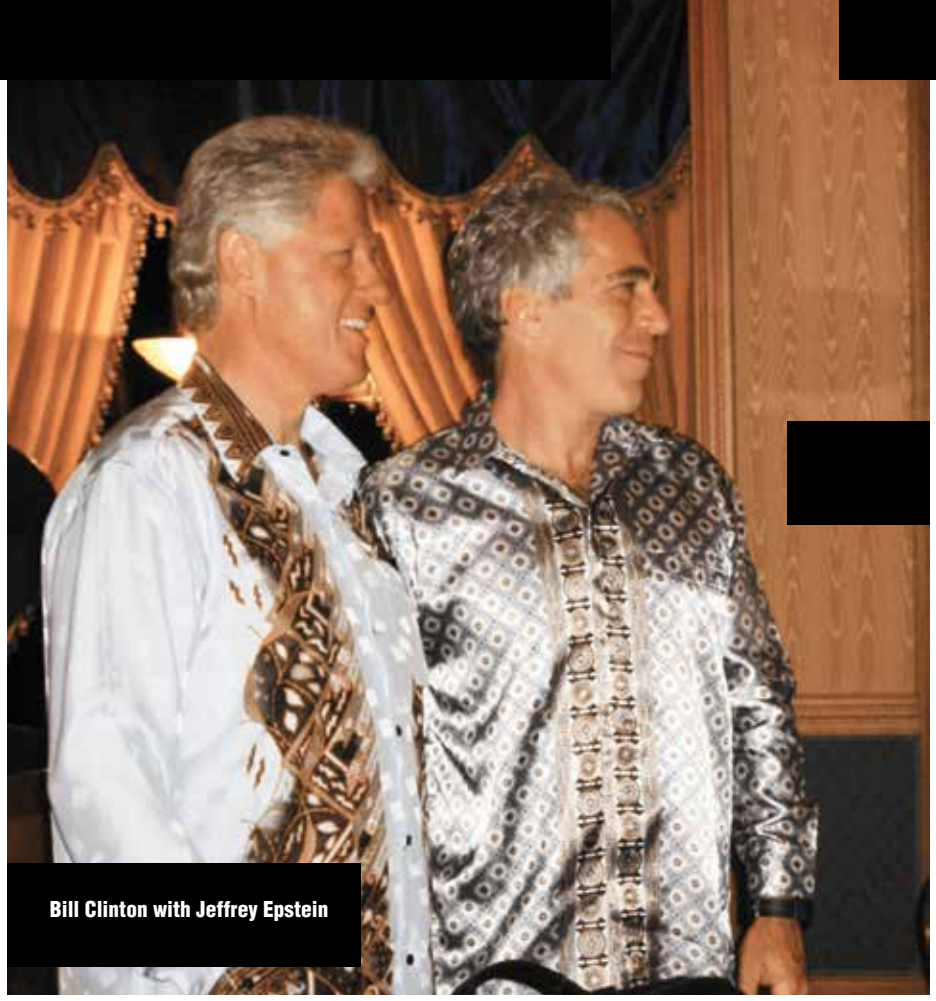
A Window Into the Deep State



New York State Sex Offender Registry via AP

AT A GLANCE

- The Epstein scandal goes beyond the revelations of sexual perversions among the rich and famous.
- Jeffrey Epstein was a Deep State operative who had backing from powerful financial elites.
- He had ties to the Rothschilds and Soros, as well as a former Israeli prime minister.
- The Establishment is trying to cover it all up, but it is not too late for justice.



Bill Clinton with Jeffrey Epstein

U.S. Department of Justice

by Alex Newman

Contrary to official denials and media ridicule in recent years, it seems the world may, in fact, be largely run by criminal perverts who want to play God. And now the proof is out there for anyone with an internet connection to see. One of the biggest scandals in the history of humanity — literally — has now been revealed. With the release of millions of pages of documents involving convicted child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein this year, the truth is out. (Though, as of this writing, there have been virtually no prosecutions, indictments, or arrests.)

What is known thus far appears to be just the tip of the iceberg. However, what has already been revealed provides what may be the clearest window ever into the Deep State, its operations, the "Deep State behind the Deep State," and how the world *really* works. In short, these disclosures offer unprecedented insight into the disgusting world of the Insiders.

Exposure has always been one of the most potent weapons in stopping a conspiracy. And ultimately, it will all be exposed. As Luke 8:17 declares, "there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open." But even as humanity awaits the complete fulfillment of this divine promise, Americans now have key facts needed to expose one of the most monstrous conspiracies in human history.

Much of the public focus so far — to the extent that this is being talked about — surrounds the horrendous sex crimes against children perpetrated by Epstein and his associates (see article on page 21). From sex trafficking and ritual abuse of young children to suspected blackmailing of ultra-high-level officials, including former presidents and world leaders, the revelations so far have been unimaginably explosive. Some of Epstein's key associates — Les Wexner, for example, listed by the FBI as a co-conspirator — have literally claimed to be possessed by demons (See article on page 19).

Thousands of references to "pizza," "jerky," and other known code words for child abuse are littered throughout the documents. In one email to prominent celebrity publicist Peggy Siegal, Epstein offers to bring back "a little baby for you ... or two" from Africa. "Boys or girls?" he asks, one of countless overt references to child trafficking found in the emails. In an email to former Putin apparatchik and "venture capitalist" Masha Drokova, Epstein describes himself as "a really bad guy that gets [children] for sex sent to his island."

Multiple U.S. lawmakers with access to unredacted files, including Representatives Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) and Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), suggested publicly that there appear to be references to cannibalism. Indeed, in one 2013 email, Epstein touts somebody from a restaurant called "Cannibal" who will bring a taste of "his new jerky recipe" and teach a recipient how to make it. Congressman Tim Burchett (R-Tenn.) urged people not to see the unredacted files, describing the contents as "evil, satanic, from the pits of hell." Even a cursory review of the redacted files that have been released so far suggests the comments by lawmakers may be justified.

The documents confirm decades of warnings from "conspiracy theorists," as the media and politicians refer to those who expose them. Among those implicated: Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates, former U.S. President Bill Clinton (who flew on Epstein's infamous "Lolita Express" private jet dozens of times), billionaire David Rockefeller, multiple leaders of the Rothschild banking dynasty, countless Big Tech leaders, financiers, business titans, and more. Even more should be known in the months to come.

Key Deep State Operative: Intelligence & the Deep State Behind the Deep State

Epstein didn't amass his fortune through legitimate means, of course. Like other key Deep State operatives — George Soros, Cecil Rhodes, and others — he received powerful help from unfathomably wealthy Deep State moneymen. These

Alex Newman is a senior editor of The New American*, and author of* Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes *and* Indoctrinating Our Children to Death.

very same power players were involved with Epstein every step of the way.

That Deep State assist becomes apparent as early as 1974, when Epstein was just 21 and was hired, despite no relevant credentials or experience, as a teacher at the Deep State training and recruiting center known as the Dalton School on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The elite private school was at that time under the leadership of Donald Barr, father of former U.S. attorney general and Deep State operative Bill Barr.

After his stint at the school, Epstein moved to Wall Street. After joining Bear Stearns and rapidly moving up the ranks to become a partner in 1980, the young financial star launched his own firm in 1981. That company, Intercontinental Assets Group, brought him into contact with global financial power brokers.

According to a cryptic Department of Justice (DOJ) memo, Epstein even served as a "financial bounty hunter" for the U.S. government. "At some point in time, Jeffrey Epstein worked for the United States government as a financial bounty hunter," the memo says. "He has retained significant political connections with both Israel and the United States." People with "significant knowledge" listed in the memo include Clinton, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Wexner, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, and megabanker and Clinton operative Doug Band.

Epstein's ties to powerful intelligence agencies are well-documented. In one photo released by the DOJ and then removed, he was sitting with boxes labeled "CIA." Reports suggesting he operated as an asset for Mossad or the CIA (or both) have proliferated. And evidence that he was collecting compromising material on influential figures for blackmail continues to surface, with members of Congress publicly saying Epstein was running a "honeypot" operation to get dirt on powerful players. His New York townhouse, gifted by Wexner, became an apparent hub for blackmail operations, equipped with hidden cameras and microphones. The island, too, was wired up to record everything.

One of the documents released by the DOJ was an Austrian passport with a fake name on it. And during his travels to Europe, Epstein was introduced to "businessman" Robert Maxwell, the father of convicted Epstein co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell. The elder Maxwell was a known intelligence operative with Israeli security services, with his state funeral in Israel being attended by virtually the nation's entire political establishment. He was also connected to British and Soviet intelligence, though MI6 suspected he may have been a double or triple agent.

David Rockefeller

AP Photo

Many critics have seized on Epstein's close ties to Robert Maxwell and former Israeli leader Barak to suggest Epstein was working for Mossad. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu argued that the pervert's ties with Barak — part of a more leftist, globalist faction in Israeli politics — prove that was not the case. "Jeffrey Epstein's unusual close relationship with Ehud Barak doesn't suggest Epstein worked for Israel. It proves the opposite," Netanyahu said on X. "Stuck on his election loss from over two decades ago, Barak has for years obsessively attempted to undermine Israeli democracy by working with the anti-Zionist radical left in failed attempts to overthrow the elected Israeli government."

Plenty of U.S. power brokers were connected to Epstein, too. By around 1990, Deep State patriarch David Rockefeller had asked a young Epstein to join the Trilateral Commission. This key Deep State institution, founded by Rockefeller and Insider technocrat Zbigniew Brzezinski, includes a who's who roster of top globalists from Japan, Europe, and North America, including multiple presidents, CEOs, and top officials. All are united in the push for what the group describes as a "New International Economic Order." Epstein was so close to the Rockefeller dynasty that he even served on the board of The Rockefeller University.

Epstein was also a member of and major financial contributor to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), another key globalist outfit used by the Deep State and the Rockefeller dynasty to undermine U.S. sovereignty and constitutional governance. According to then-U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, whose husband was notoriously close to Epstein, the CFR told her and her team "what we should be doing and how we should think about the future." Epstein remained a member even after pleading guilty to child-prostitution charges.

In addition to demonstrating Epstein's

Ehud Barak

AP Photo

involvement with numerous organizations that make up the "Deep State behind the Deep State," such as the Council on Foreign Relations and Trilateral Commission, the evidence overwhelmingly shows that he was tied to multiple intelligence agencies and was being protected by high levels of government. According to media reports citing senior White House officials, U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta, who famously covered for Epstein during the George W. Bush administration, pointed to these connections. "I was told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and to 'leave it alone,'" Acosta reportedly said, adding that he was told that Epstein was "above his pay grade."

Acosta's refusal to prosecute Epstein for well-documented and widespread abuse of children is certainly significant. Epstein ended up pleading guilty to procuring a minor for prostitution. For that, he served a ludicrous 13-month sentence, much of it on "work release," with a driver picking him up to spend 12 hours per day, six days per week outside of the jail. The files show Donald Trump was one of those who reported Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell to law enforcement. But the evidence is clear: Epstein was being protected by friends in very high places.

In a series of messages from 2018 with the names of other participants redacted, someone contacted Epstein, letting him know that "the establishment hates Trump." Another message a few minutes later, also with the name of the sender redacted, added: "The good news is they are getting him resign [sic] by finding illegality rather than doing what they did to JFK." Little is known about the context of those messages yet, but the correspondence is consistent with what is known about Deep State operations.

The Rothschild Connection

One of the most revealing connections was Epstein's relationship with the unfathomably wealthy and powerful Rothschild banking dynasty, perhaps the most important moneymen for the Insiders. Understanding this link is critical to unraveling the real story of whom Epstein was working for and what he was doing. For centuries, the Rothschild dynasty has been at the center of the plot to create a global political and economic system. That remains true today.

The wealth and power of the Rothschild banking dynasty, which goes back to the late 1700s, is unparalleled. Consider that more than two centuries ago, the family tipped the scales in a war between two of the most powerful governments on Earth at that time. "The Rothschilds had decided the outcome of the Napoleonic Wars by putting their financial weight behind Britain," wrote Niall Ferguson, an establishment historian and Rothschild apologist, in his book *The World's Banker: The History of the House of Rothschild*.

Funding governments involved in war has been a hallmark of the dynasty's financial model. And with Epstein, it seems that the war profiteering continued. During the 2014 chaos in Ukraine, Epstein emailed a key Rothschild family leader, saying, "Ukraine upheaval should provide many opportunites [sic], many." Some have suggested the reference to "opportunities" may have been even darker, with Ukraine long serving as a key source of children for trafficking networks.

According to a contract released by the DOJ, Epstein was paid tens of millions

Epstein didn't amass his fortune through legitimate means, of course. Like other key Deep State operatives — George Soros, Cecil Rhodes, and others — he received powerful help from unfathomably wealthy Deep State moneymen.

Robert Maxwell
AP Photo

of dollars by Rothschild entities for "the Work." In fact, in emails to Big Tech leaders such as Peter Thiel, Epstein referred to himself as a "representative" of the powerful banking dynasty. Recent sworn testimony by billionaire Les Wexner, listed by the FBI as an Epstein "co-conspirator," also confirmed that Epstein was close to the Rothschilds.

Like the Rockefellers, who spawned legions of New World Order schemers, including Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Rothschild family has a long history of building up minions to do their dirty work. Indeed, the dynasty bankrolled critical Deep State moneymen far better known than themselves. Then, these wealthy elites whose fortunes stem from their Rothschild connection can bankroll all sorts of causes while giving the banking dynasty a fig leaf of plausible deniability.

Mining magnate Cecil Rhodes, whose fortune was used to create the infamous "Roundtable Groups" — secret societies to promote global governance — got his start with Rothschild money. In his 1877 work *Confessions of Faith*, Rhodes said that the day he joined Freemasonry he had a vision for global political, religious, and economic unification under a British-style planetary regime.

A decade later, N.M. Rothschild & Sons of London and de Rothschild Frères of Paris provided the funding for Rhodes' ventures. Among them: the 1887 launch of the famous De Beers diamond-mining company in southern Africa, which Rhodes used to gain control of the region's diamond mines and create a virtual monopoly. The Rothschilds also financed Rhodes' British South Africa Company, which was founded in 1889 to colonize what eventually became Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Rhodes, who had no children and was widely believed to have been a pedophile attracted to young boys (even the BBC portrayed him this way), left almost his entire estate to Nathaniel Rothschild. This key figure in the banking dynasty was also given instructions to administer the Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford, a program that continues training up leading globalists in government, media, education, and other fields.

A billionaire Insider who was launched to prominence by the Rothschild dynasty more recently is George Soros, the "investor" infamous for bankrolling left-wing extremism, globalism, and lawlessness. In 1969, Baron Edmond de Rothschild and his "Banque Privée" invested money to launch Soros' Quantum Fund, as detailed by *The Washington Times* in a 2011 piece. Between 1970 and 2000, the fund returned 3,365 percent. In 2002, Soros was convicted of insider trading by a French court.

Quantum Fund, registered in Caribbean tax havens, includes board members such as Richard Katz, head of Rothschild & Co. Italia S.p.A. and a director for N.M. Rothschild & Sons in London. On the board before his death was Nils Taube, a partner in St. James's Place Capital alongside Lord Rothschild. Frequent collaborator Sir James Goldsmith, a Rothschild relative, has also joined Soros in various speculative ventures.

When it comes to Epstein, the relationship with various key Rothschilds was much closer than "just business." In fact, Ariane de Rothschild, CEO of the Rothschild Group with about a quarter of a trillion dollars in assets, shared intimate details of her marriage, family squabbles, and more with the convicted child sex trafficker. The correspondence shows the two arranging multiple meetings at Epstein's homes and properties in Paris and New York. Just the documents released so far include Ariane's name thousands of times.

In a June 2017 email, Epstein touts an upcoming visit the two were planning to take to Cuba, hosted by the mass-murdering Castro dynasty enslaving the island. "We will be hosted by Castro family," Epstein wrote, indicating no apparent fear among these supposed "super capitalists" about hanging out with a murderous communist dictator. Another email exchange the next year features Epstein boasting about how his family and the Rothschilds financed Adolf Hitler.

In a separate exchange, Ariane tells Epstein about a custom candle she was having sent to him. "Your favorite mathematical formula is written on it and the smell is made for you only," she said. "It fits with your island." What the smell might have been was not clear.

Billionaire co-conspirator Wexner disclosed in a deposition for Congress that the child sex trafficker "represented" the "whole" Rothschild family. In fact, it was Elie de Rothschild who recommended Epstein to Wexner. "When I spoke with Elie, he highly recommended Epstein based upon work Epstein had done for his family," said Wexner, who publicly claimed he (Wexner) was possessed by a demon and responded to the Epstein scandal by claiming he was "conned."

A spokesman for Ariane's bank claimed the CEO was merely visiting with Epstein for routine business purposes and "unequivocally condemns his behaviour and the crimes which he committed." Subsequent statements have tried to protect the

Ariane de Rothschild

AP Photo

bank's reputation amid the growing scandal and more investigations. But the facts should be clear for all to see.

Where to Go From Here

As of this writing, at least in the United States, only Ghislaine Maxwell is serving time in prison for facilitating Epstein's monstrous crimes. While some high-profile figures have resigned, there has been no real justice — yet. The Trump administration has refused to do much after being forced by Congress to release the documents. Trump himself has dismissed Epstein concerns as a "Democrat hoax" while urging Americans to move on. And when grilled by lawmakers in a hearing with questions about how many individuals in the Epstein files were being indicted or investigated, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi bizarrely discussed the performance of the stock market.

Meanwhile, the broader establishment in the United States is still running cover for the evil. *The New York Times*, for instance, published an opinion piece headlined "The Epstein Files Should Never Have Been Released." The piece, written by Daniel Richman, a former federal prosecutor and Columbia University professor used by disgraced FBI boss James Comey to leak attacks on Trump, argued that Americans should be able to trust the Justice Department to release what the public needs to know. The self-styled paper of record has also been peddling the notion that pedophilia is "a disorder, not a crime." Even apparently controlled "opposition voices" in the alternative media are trying to pretend Epstein was just "working for himself."

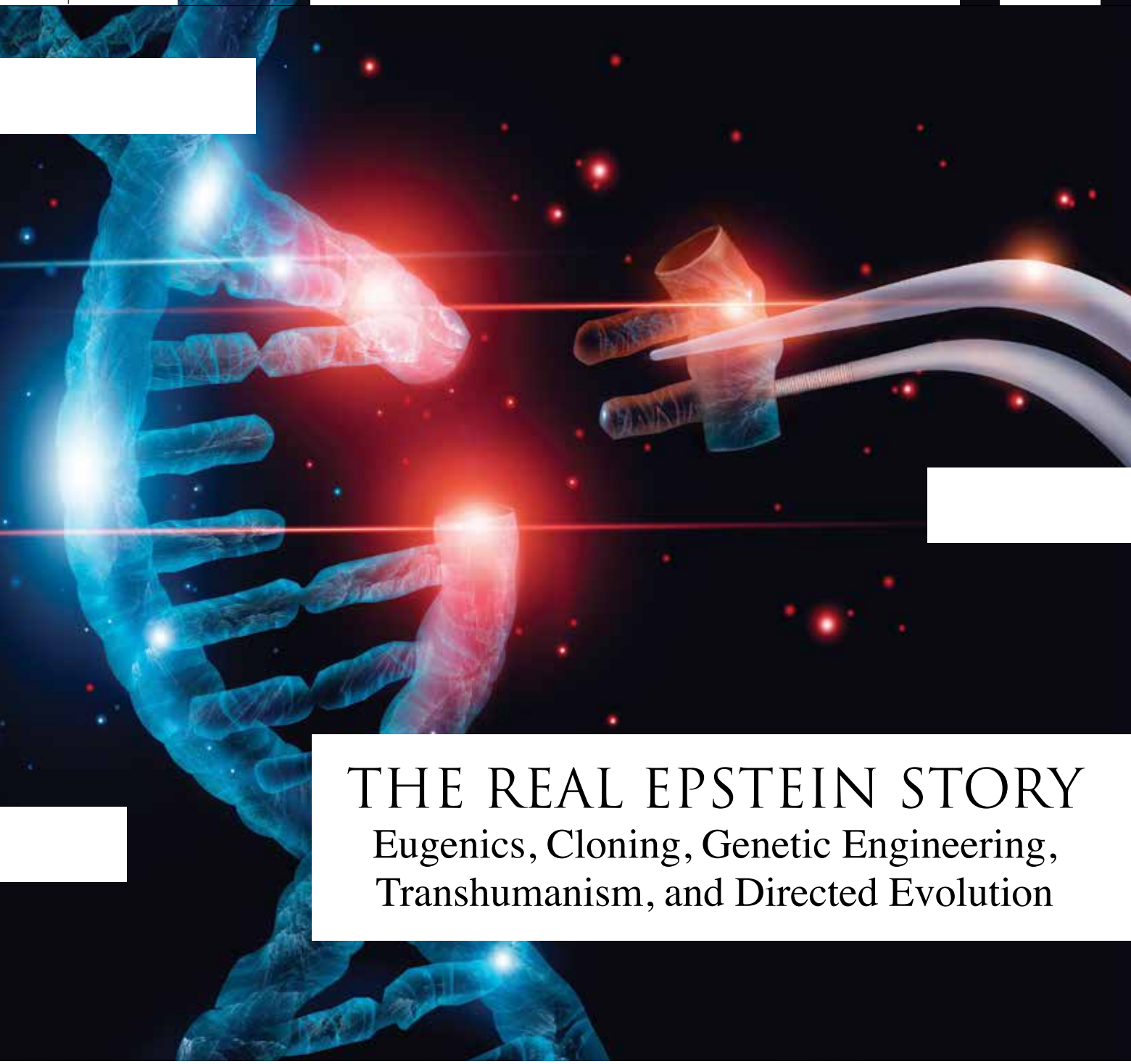
In Europe, there have been more consequences, but still nothing approaching justice. Former Norwegian Prime Minister Thorbjorn Jagland, former British Prince Andrew, former U.K. Ambassador to the United States Lord Peter Mandelson, and many others have already been raided. Some prominent individuals have even been charged with crimes, and more investigations are being opened as this is being written. The number of resignations continues to grow as well, with World Economic Forum President Borge Brende stepping down in late February. But as of this writing, nobody has been imprisoned in Europe over the Epstein scandal.

Ironically, the UN — notorious for its "peace troops" raping women and children worldwide with impunity — is now moving in to try to justify a power grab. In fact, perhaps sensing an opportunity, the UN is seeking to position itself as the dispenser of justice. In a statement released not long after the files were released, a coalition of UN "experts" argued that Epstein's associates must be investigated and prosecuted for violations of international law.

"So grave is the scale, nature, systematic character, and transnational reach of these atrocities against women and girls, that a number of them may reasonably meet the legal threshold of crimes against humanity," the UN officials said, blasting the "impunity" seen so far and arguing that these violations of "international criminal law" should be prosecuted in "national and *international* courts." (Emphasis added.)

As more and more explosive information emerges from the Department of Justice, it is becoming clear that Epstein was just one player in a diabolical global Deep State network. What has been learned so far, with all the redactions and documents being held back by authorities, represents just the tip of the iceberg. Despite being authorized to redact only names and information about victims, the DOJ has redacted countless names of Epstein associates, too. And questions about whether Epstein actually killed himself — or whether he is even really dead — continue to surface, even among U.S. lawmakers.

With what is known so far, though, Americans and decent people around the world have a unique and historic opportunity to expose and crush the Deep State. Criminal investigations across jurisdictions, prosecutions, trials, journalistic exposés, and much more should be the order of the day, worldwide. And it is not too late, despite the slow start. Unfortunately, if humanity fails to seize this chance, it will serve to embolden and empower the Deep State like never before. It is time to end this horror show and the impunity of those involved once and for all. The alternative is Epstein's world — and that is unacceptable. ■

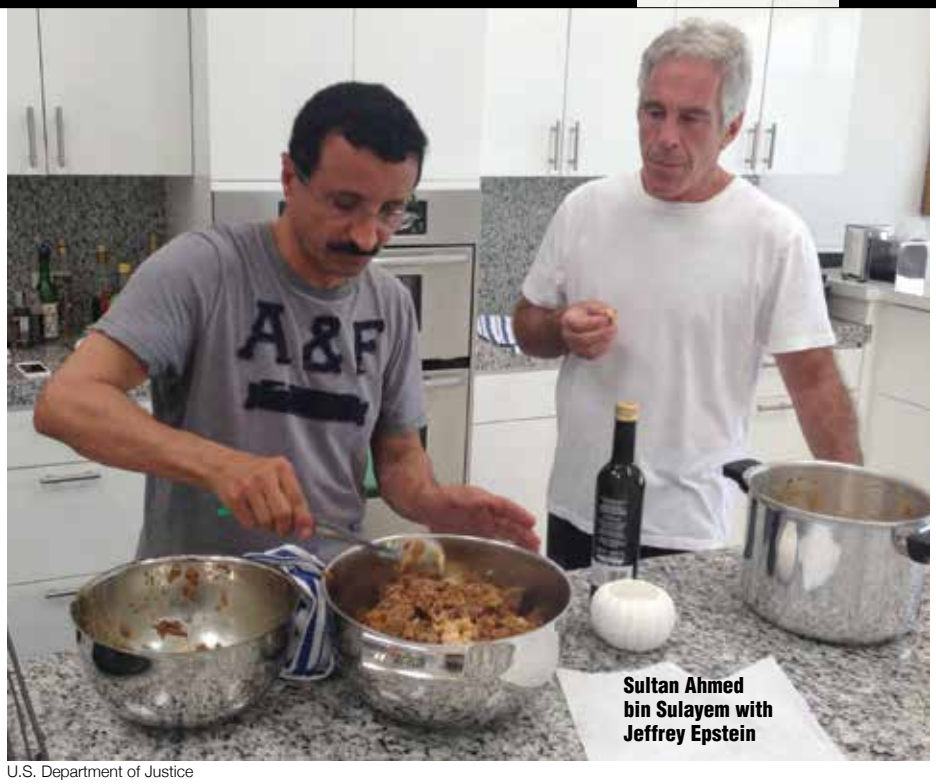


THE REAL EPSTEIN STORY

Eugenics, Cloning, Genetic Engineering, Transhumanism, and Directed Evolution

AT A GLANCE

- **Jeffrey Epstein was obsessed with eugenics, cloning, and genetic engineering.**
- **He impregnated women and collected babies for eugenics purposes.**
- **Epstein had close ties to genetics researchers at top universities such as Harvard and Columbia.**
- **He and his ilk are trying to play God; they must be stopped.**



Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem with Jeffrey Epstein

U.S. Department of Justice

by Alex Newman

Jeffrey Epstein was more than just a perverted Deep State operative; he was a critical player in some of the Insiders' most horrific agendas. Buried within the millions of pages of Epstein documents released so far is evidence of something even darker and more monstrous than the crimes now starting to come to light.

This particular story has received almost no public attention thus far. But the scandals and horrors around Epstein's involvement in "science" arguably make even the diabolical sex trafficking of children by world leaders to private islands and remote ranches seem almost mundane by comparison.

Lurking beneath the surface is overwhelming evidence of a secret eugenics agenda to alter and control humanity, down to the genetic level. With the involvement of top scientists and academics at elite institutions across the United States and worldwide, Epstein and his associates were literally scheming to breed "designer babies," human clones, and more.

Ultimately, the goal appears to have been what Insiders refer to as "directed evolution" and "transhumanism." It seems that Epstein was hoping to "improve" the human race, partly by seeding it with his own DNA. How much progress he made is not yet clear. But considering what is known already, it is essential that this agenda be understood — and stopped.

There are also multiple intersections between Epstein and his network and the so-called Pandemic Preparedness biodefense, biosecurity industry. Indeed, Epstein was unusually close to many of the key players and organizations working on "pandemic" preparations in the run-up to the totalitarian global response to Covid. And this may be just the tip of the iceberg.

Clues Were Everywhere

The clues were always there. In fact, Epstein himself offered some major insight into this with his Southern Trust Company. The U.S. Virgin Islands-based entity, paid tens of millions of dollars by the Rothschild dynasty (see article on page 6), was described to the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority by Epstein as a "DNA database consulting and data analysis company." Epstein claimed that the company aimed to develop a "DNA data-mining service" that would use mathematical algorithms to identify genetic predispositions to diseases such as cancer.

Epstein was also known to be obsessed with genetics. He opened an account with genetics and ancestry testing company 23andMe in 2013 (under the alias "Sam Epstein") and used it regularly, according to multiple reports. He treated the kits as personal "gifts" for friends, celebrities, and powerful contacts, often discussing results or arranging shipments through his assistants and girlfriend.

Emails released by the U.S. Department of Justice show Epstein sending kits to filmmaker Woody Allen and his wife, Soon-Yi Previn, in 2016; MIT and Harvard linguist Noam Chomsky and his wife, Valeria, in 2017; and more. In the summer of 2017, Epstein's assistant tried to order 30 of them for Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, then the CEO of Dubai's DP World. He even ordered one for Ariane de Rothschild, CEO of the Rothschild Group.

The company was led by genomics expert Anne Wojcicki, then Google cofounder Sergey Brin's girlfriend. (Anne is also the sister of Susan Wojcicki, the late YouTube CEO who ruthlessly censored the platform during Covid.) In a December 2006 email, Epstein's assistant Ghislaine Maxwell invited Brin and Wojcicki to Epstein's Little Saint James island. She warned Epstein in advance: "Be v nice to her not stupid… She is interested in mapping DNA etc ..she is key :)"

Intel, Academia & Government Connections

The intersection between Epstein's activities and intelligence entities such as In-Q-Tel (the CIA's venture-capital arm), the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and elite academic institutions and scientists reveals an unimaginably dark agenda. Epstein was leveraging science and technology for control not just over individual people, but also of humanity and life itself, down to the genetic level.

The documents that have been released so far reveal elements of a vast and highly sophisticated operation involving genetics, eugenics, transhumanism, artificial intelligence, human cloning, forced breeding, reproductive technologies, and more. Ultimately, the goal appears to have been taking control of what those in the field refer to as the "software of life" and then evolution. By altering the genetic code and mastering the building blocks of life, they seek to become gods on Earth.

The technology has been around for years. "Humanity has unlocked the secret of creation and can now control evolu-

Klaus Schwab
AP Photo

Bill Gates
AP Photo

tion itself," argued Jennifer Doudna, co-inventor of the CRISPR technology to edit DNA, in her book *A Crack in Creation*. "With CRISPR, manipulating the code of life is as easy as editing a text with copy & paste."

World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab and billionaire Bill Gates — both of whom are closely linked to Epstein — have been promoting genetic engineering of human beings since at least 2018. And both of their organizations, working with Epstein, were at the forefront of promoting the idea. Schwab could barely contain his glee as he declared that genetic editing in the Fourth Industrial Revolution does "not just change what you are doing, it changes you."

Eugenics Program Revealed?

Epstein's interest in some of this was already starting to become public before the massive document release. A shocking *New York Times* report published in 2019, for instance, revealed that Epstein "hoped to seed the human race with his DNA by impregnating women at his vast New Mexico ranch." He planned to impregnate 20 women at a time, according to sources in the report, and talked frequently about it.

According to a diary entry written in code by one of Epstein's victims, the pedophile kidnapped and impregnated her when she was just 16 years old. The girl, who was not identified in the documents because Congress authorized redactions for the names of victims, described seeing and hearing her baby before it was snatched 10 or 15 minutes after birth. It was all carried out under Ghislaine Maxwell's supervision, the victim said.

Blasting what the victim described as Epstein's plan to create a "superior gene pool," she slammed his "stupid insane theories" about creating "perfect offspring." "That feels very Nazi like," she added, referencing her hair and eye color. "I miss the person I was before I was made into what feels as a human incubator." The girl also described feeling like "nothing but your property and incubator." "There is no respect for me as a human," she added.

In an email to Epstein from a woman whose name was redacted, the female — presumably an Epstein victim — makes a startling claim. "You offered to buy my baby six months into our relationship," she writes.

Even more bizarre, multiple emails between Epstein and others refer to meetings with "the egg people." No further information or context is provided, but the reference is probably to some sort of reproductive specialists involved with egg programs, in vitro fertilization, and related fields. While *The New York Times* did not have access to these documents, the new information fits nicely with what the paper had uncovered independently.

Epstein's interest was not just in eugenics. "Mr. Epstein did not hide his interest in tinkering with genes — and in perpetuating his own DNA," the paper reported. Citing conversations Epstein had with scientists and others about the plan, the *Times* pointed to his "longstanding fascination with what has become known as transhumanism: the science of improving the human population through technologies like genetic engineering and artificial intelligence."

Academic Ties Shed More Light on the Agenda

Even a cursory review of the evidence shows that Epstein's direct and deep ties to Harvard, Columbia University, MIT, Arizona State University (ASU), and other leading institutions were not "philanthropy" in the traditional sense. Instead, they were investments in reshaping humanity, often with academics who at the very least turned a blind eye to his crimes — and maybe much worse.

At Harvard, for example, Epstein funneled more than $9 million between 1998 and 2008 to support research and faculty activities. Harvard's own report confirms the total: $9,179,000, including $6.5 million in 2003 for the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics under Professor Martin Nowak. Epstein even had an office in the building dubbed "Jeffrey's Office," with the pervert visiting the facility at least 40 times *after* his conviction.

Much of the correspondence between the two focused on evolutionary biology and genetics. Some was downright bizarre. "Our spy was captured after completing her mission," Nowak wrote in a 2014 email to Epstein. The convicted pervert responded cryptically: "Did you torture her?" There is no additional context to help make sense of the strange remarks. In another note from Nowak to Epstein, the Harvard scientist says: "i just came back thank you so much for the beautiful time creating a new world order."

Another key Harvard scientist close to Epstein is George Church, a molecular engineer and professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School. Among other claims

With the involvement of top scientists and academics at elite institutions across the United States and worldwide, Epstein and his associates were literally scheming to breed "designer babies," human clones, and more.

to fame, Church is a founding member of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard. And perhaps even more importantly, he may be the top expert in the world on the identification of genes that could be altered to supposedly "improve" humanity through genetic engineering and CRISPR technology to edit DNA.

In conversations with linguist and far-left academic Noam Chomsky, who served as a fellow at Harvard and taught at MIT and the University of Arizona, Epstein reveals his Hitlerian eugenics views clearly. In one chilling exchange, Epstein pushed Chomsky on race, IQ gaps, and gene editing for traits such as working memory. "The test score gap amongst African Americans is well documented," Epstein wrote in an email exchange in which Chomsky discussed how "tempting" a trip to Epstein's infamous island would be. "Making things better might require accepting some uncomfortable facts."

Chomsky responded by suggesting the disparities were likely due to the legacy of racism rather than innate biology and genetics. However, the radical left-wing activist went on to argue that if genes could indeed be altered, priority should go to curbing "dedicated savagery" among those who seek power.

Epstein persisted in pushing for genetically engineering "better" human beings. "Imagine that a set of genes used for working memory … could be found and adjusted," he wrote. "Not looking seems cruel." This was part of a broader pattern reflecting Epstein's obsession with eugenics and genetic "improvement," a longtime obsession of Deep State elitists going back generations.

Noam Chomsky (left) and Jeffrey Epstein

U.S. Department of Justice

Other Harvard-linked academics stayed in touch with Epstein post-conviction as well. Theoretical physicist Lisa Randall emailed Epstein casually, asking about his island during a Caribbean trip. "Wow haven't you had enough house arrest?" she joked. Epstein's Harvard network included heavyweights such as Larry Summers, who even served as president of Harvard for a time after being U.S. treasury secretary under Bill Clinton.

Meanwhile, writing to Epstein, UCLA Professor of Neurology Mark Tramo discussed whether girls were "cute" or not. He also made a bizarre remark about how "newborns will suck on a pacifier more vigorously if it triggers playback of a recording of her/his mother's voice than another woman's voice."

At Columbia University, Epstein was very close to Richard Axel, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist and co-director of the school's famous Mind Brain Behavior Institute at the forefront of research into neuroscience. Axel, who was a regular guest at Epstein properties, also worked at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, described in the press as among the largest and most prestigious biomedical research organizations in the world. Among other connections, Epstein arranged meetings between Axel and the Rothschilds, documents show.

But it gets much weirder. Arizona State University, a key hub for transhumanist research led by U.S. intelligence bigwig Michael Crow, who chairs the CIA's In-Q-Tel finance arm, is the most frequently named academic institution in the newly released Epstein files. The billionaire sex trafficker's ASU connections centered on physicist Lawrence Krauss and his Origins Project.

Founded in 2008 to probe life's "big questions," the Origins Project is involved

in cutting-edge but extremely disturbing research into areas ranging from genetics to evolution. Epstein, not surprisingly, was a major financier of the project, maintaining strong ties with the outfit and its leader. When Krauss faced sexual misconduct allegations leading to his 2018 ouster, he emailed Epstein for advice. After a brief email exchange, Krauss chimed in: "I wish they would indict Trump or something right now." Epstein was clearly a key confidant of Krauss.

Larry Summers

AP Photo

Designer Babies and Clones

But Epstein's ties with the ASU-centered research orbit get even darker — into outright transhumanism. He corresponded frequently with Bryan Bishop, a Bitcoin Core contributor and later chief technology officer at Avanti crypto bank. Bishop pitched Epstein on a "designer baby project," sharing a slide deck and proposing it under his banner for "deniability." Another slide deck in the files featured information on transgenic gene manipulation across species.

"Questions about how serious you are," Bishop wrote, "regarding your requirements for secrecy and privacy, specifically regarding reputational risk and also any financial involvement." Epstein responded: "im traveling in mid east until the 1st. lets do it after that , i have no issue with investing the problem is only if i am seen to lead."

Bishop followed up with a "use of funds" spreadsheet plan for a designer-baby and human-cloning venture. According to the document, it would cost $1.7 million per year for up to five years plus $1 million for lab setup. The goal: having the "first live birth of a human designer baby, and possibly a human clone, within 5 years."

"Once we reach the first birth, everything changes and the world will never be the same again, much less the future of the human species," Bishop warned the financier. Epstein replied to the email: "no rush." Bishop updated Epstein on challenges surrounding the CRISPR technology for altering genetic code. Citing the 2018 Chinese "CRISPR babies" scandal and certain technical problems with engineering babies, he touted a new embryo-editing technique that is "more similar to cloning." Epstein responded enthusiastically: "great." In another note, Epstein said he favored "implant embryo , wait 9 months.. great ending."

Epstein even queried Bitcoin developer Jeremy Rubin about Bishop and his plans: "bryan bishop wants to talk to me. do you know him?" Rubin responded: "Yeah I do. He's a smart guy, quirky though. Does a mix of Bitcoin things and dna data storage."

In a transcript of a conversation involving Epstein and multiple other individuals, the subject of cloning comes up. "I think we should, I want to start cloning things, me," Epstein is quoted as saying. "And with certain people, Prince Andrew got upset because he was all, 'If it had a conscience, could you kill it for spare parts?' And I said, 'I'll make it without a head, would that make you feel better?'"

Beyond babies, Epstein explored fringe biotech. With Stanford visiting Professor Nathan Wolfe, he discussed a "horny virus" idea involving sexual behavior. Wolfe pushed for funding to do a study on it. Epstein also corresponded with Harvard statistician Donald Bruce Rubin about the possibility of "female Viagra" and even investment in an "Emotional Brain." Epstein was also funding and regularly corresponding with "transgender" medical experts. And as trans billionaire Martine Rothblatt explains in the book *From Transgender to Transhuman*, the supposed transcending of gender is a precursor to transcending human biology entirely.

Pandemics and "Biosecurity"

Much of this research and these bizarre ideas tie back into ASU's Michael Crow of In-Q-Tel — genetic manipulation, pandemic simulations, and even biodigital convergence. As this writer discussed in detail with researcher and forensic accountant Kristen Williamson in 2023, ASU and In-Q-Tel are key to understanding the whole agenda to master control over life by controlling genetics. With his funding and network, Epstein was helping to grease the wheels for transhumanist research blending genetics, artificial intelligence, and control.

DARPA, ASU, and In-Q-Tel, along with billionaire Epstein buddy Bill Gates, are all at the center of what authorities refer to as "biodefense" and "biosecurity." And indeed, Epstein documents show he was a critical player in a "defense-health" plan that paralleled a classified program by DARPA involving some of the very same people. As revealed by Global Wellness Forum Chairman Sayer Ji, this plan even included a pandemic preparedness tool described as a "complete digital platform for the Strain simulation exercise" that helped lay the groundwork for the "Covid response" years later.

All of this began in 2017 — years before anyone in the public had heard about Covid. And it specified "reliance

Lawrence Krauss

AP Photo

on Gates team expertise wherever relevant." The plan was shaped from start to finish by Epstein and some of his associates. Meanwhile, the DARPA scheme, launched the very same month, included a "Pandemic Prevention Platform" building on the Defense Department's investments in mRNA vaccines. The goal: create medical "countermeasures" such as mRNA vaccines to deal with potential pandemics within 60 days.

Those mRNA shots, as Gates and Moderna publicly boasted, were able to inject man-made genetic instructions into human cells that would hijack protein-manufacturing components. Then, this foreign genetic code would force cells to produce spike proteins. And as Dr. Peter McCullough explained to this writer citing multiple studies, these genetic changes were able to change the genetic code even of offspring of those who took the mRNA injections. Moderna's top scientist boasted about this, describing it as "hacking the software of life."

Epstein and Gates were both deeply interested in and involved with pandemic simulations, along with their associates at ASU. Naturally, they were coordinating with and communicating with key officials at the World Health Organization, which led the global response to Covid. Correspondence between Epstein and Norwegian politician and UN official Terje Rod-Larsen includes an invitation to the WHO's high-level "Preparing for Pandemics: Lessons Learned for More Effective Responses" conference in Geneva.

Gates is also mentioned. And of course he played a key role in the Covid response, working with the Chinese Communist Party. He has also publicly spoken about vaccines as a tool for reducing the population. In a 2011 email to Epstein from a sender whose name was redacted, the person says: "I've been thinking a lot about that question that you asked bill gates 'how do we get rid of poor people as a whole' and I have an answer/ comment regarding that for you ... When can I call you today to discuss this "

In short, years before the pandemic, Gates, Epstein, and their associates across government and academia were preparing for a Covid-style epidemic involving laboratory-created infections to be dealt with using mRNA gene-altering injections. The efforts culminated with pandemic simulations such as Event 201, hosted by the World Economic Forum, whose leader was close to Epstein and the Gates Foundation. The scenario featured a totalitarian response to a novel coronavirus from bats, just months before the real thing hit. Another, similar exercise, dubbed Pacific Eclipse, took place in December 2019 through ASU and featured mass quarantines and censorship.

Epstein's interests also intersect neatly with those of the Rockefellers. The family has served as the architect of much of the modern globalist framework — from the UN to population-control initiatives and government tyranny. Indeed, the Rockefeller Foundation's "Lock Step" pandemic scenario from 2010 featured virtually the exact scenario that played out a decade later with Covid. The Rockefellers' and Epstein's shared interests in eugenics and "human improvement" are clear, too. David Rockefeller's legacy of funding population-reduction programs dovetails eerily with Epstein's schemes as well. No wonder Rockefeller started building up Epstein more than 35 years ago!

Stopping the Tower of Babel

The Epstein story is not just about exploited children and power grabs by evildoers, as monstrous as that is. The emerging scandal is also about an elitist cabal's plot to reshape humanity itself, playing God in pursuit of a transhumanist utopia — or dystopia — for the select few. Americans must recognize this as the front line in the battle against the "Insiders" — the shadowy forces bent on global domination — and demand full transparency and accountability, before it's too late. This is like the Tower of Babel, but worse.

This elitist network and the sick research Epstein was involved in do not represent "progress," "science," or "philanthropy." In fact, Epstein and those he worked with are literally seeking to overthrow God and take total control of humanity's future, down to its very genetic code, while perpetrating horrific crimes in the process. This diabolical agenda must be exposed. Those involved — from academia to politics — must be held accountable. The alternative is to allow these would-be masters of humanity to unleash hell on Earth. They must be stopped. ■

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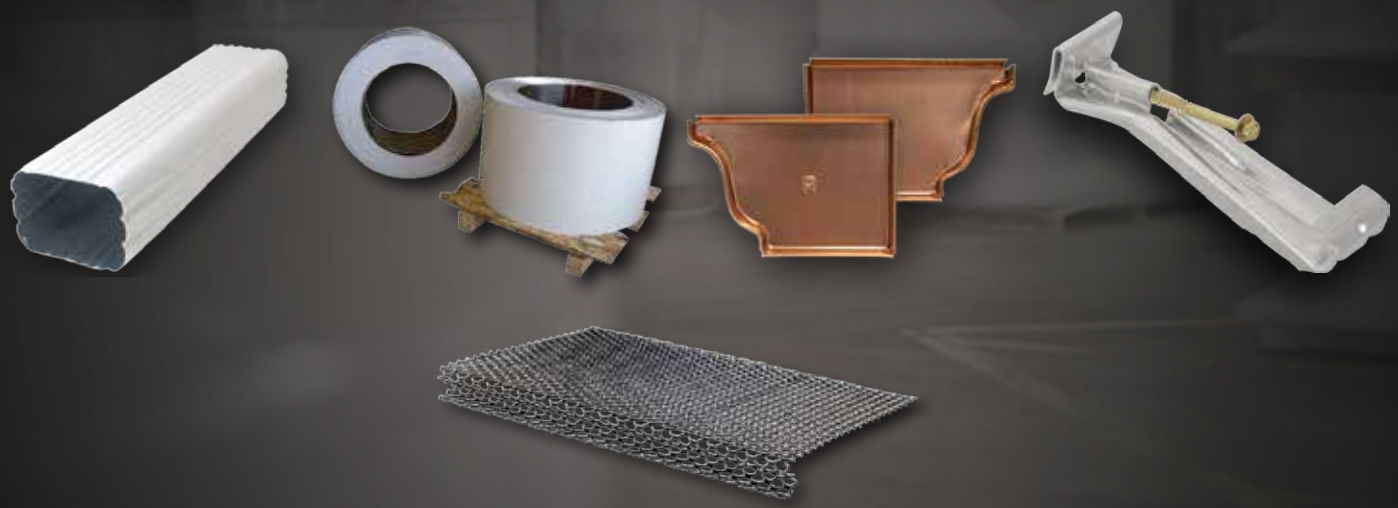

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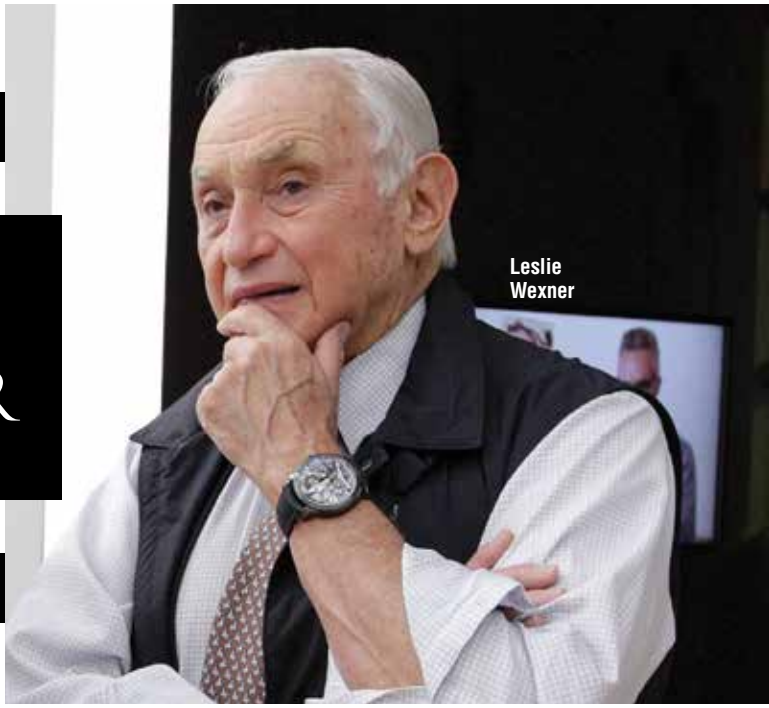
A CLOSER LOOK AT LESLIE WEXNER


Leslie Wexner

AP Photo

AT A GLANCE

- **Billionaire Leslie Wexner is listed as an Epstein co-conspirator.**
- **Jeffrey Epstein served as Wexner's financial manager.**
- **Epstein's debauchery would not have been possible without Wexner's money.**
- **Wexner is a globalist and may have been possessed by a demon.**

by Andrew Muller

The horrifying disclosure unmasking the depravity behind Jeffrey Epstein's crimes and connections to Deep State Insiders has Americans rightfully asking, "When will justice be served?"

Of course, Epstein *allegedly* committed suicide, and Ghislaine Maxwell, his girlfriend and right-hand lady, is serving a 20-year sentence for trafficking minors. Now all eyes are fixed on the host of elites who worked with Epstein and are presently walking free.

In the United States, only one individual, apart from Maxwell, has been deposed by Congress and placed under oath to answer for his role in Epstein's dark play: Mr. Leslie Wexner. (While Bill and Hillary Clinton have been deposed, they are not recognized by the FBI as Epstein co-conspirators.)

Andrew Muller is a writer, researcher, and speaker on America's religious and constitutional heritage, with the specific goal of sharing a biblical worldview and Americanism.

Wexner: Political Mob Boss Billionaire

The FBI officially listed Wexner — the Ohio-based former CEO of L Brands, which owned Victoria's Secret, PINK, Bath & Body Works, and Abercrombie & Fitch — as a co-conspirator in Jeffrey Epstein's child trafficking.

Wexner, who has a net worth upwards of $10 billion, utilized Epstein as his financial manager — with full power of attorney — from 1987 to 2007. Epstein had unfettered access to Wexner's billions. Indeed, Epstein viewed Wexner as his main client, operated out of Wexner's Ohio estate, and even purchased his Manhattan mansion from Wexner in 1998.

Speaking at a press conference in New Albany, Ohio, a town developed by Wexner, Representative Robert Garcia (D-Calif.), a member of the House Oversight Committee, revealed that without Wexner, "there would be no Epstein Island, there'd be no Epstein plane, there'd be no money to traffic women and girls.... Mr. Epstein would not be the wealthy man he was without the support of Les Wexner."

Clearly, Wexner's money and empowerment enabled Epstein to become the politically connected, depraved criminal the world knows today, and he must be investigated.

The Wexner Foundation

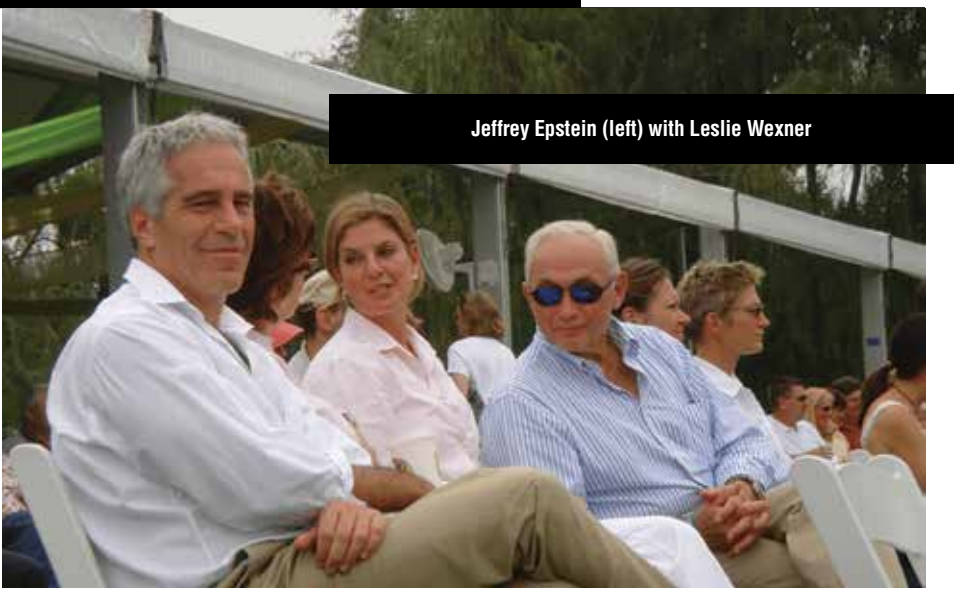
Connections between Epstein and Wexner go far beyond money management. Epstein was a trustee of the Wexner Foundation, which exists to develop global leaders "in the North American Jewish Community and across the public service sector in the State of Israel," according to the foundation's "About" page.

A 2018 article from the foundation's website, titled "The Wexner Network in Full Force at AIPAC," brags that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a foreign lobby not registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, is run by Wexner Foundation alumnus Elliot Brandt, who serves as the lobby's national managing director.

The foundation's goals closely mimic those of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Young Global Leaders (YGL) program, which former WEF chairman Klaus Schwab bragged "penetrate[d] the cabinets" of administrations globally to advance the Insider agenda.

In fact, Wexner gave more than $42 million to the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership, which partnered with the WEF's YGL program to produce future globalists such as Justin Trudeau, Vladimir Putin, Mark Zuckerberg, Sam Altman, Pete Buttigieg, and countless others.

The point is clear: Wexner and Epstein worked together to manipulate American politics.



Jeffrey Epstein (left) with Leslie Wexner

U.S. Department of Justice

The Deposition

On February 18, 2026, Wexner was called before the Congressional Oversight Committee for a recorded deposition regarding his involvement with Epstein. Flexing his muscles, Wexner had Congress come to Ohio instead of making the trip to Washington, D.C., an accommodation usually only reserved for incarcerated individuals. No Republicans attended the deposition.

During the nearly five-hour questioning, Wexner downplayed his involvement with Epstein, repeatedly saying he was "conned." He admitted to visiting Epstein's Little Saint James island, and even took a trip to the nefarious New Mexico Zorro Ranch, where, according to *The New York Times*, Epstein worked with scientists to "seed the human race with his DNA by impregnating women."

Wexner also confirmed that Epstein worked with the Rothschild banking dynasty, the key moneymen of the Insiders. "I talked to Elie de Rothschild," Wexner shared. "He [Epstein] represented their whole family." In a three-page statement Wexner released before the deposition, he doubled down on the Rothschild connection. "Epstein also offered a reference, Elie de Rothschild," he revealed. "When I spoke with Elie, he highly recommended Epstein based upon work Epstein had done for his family. At first, Epstein was unwilling to take me on as a client."

After Wexner revealed too much intel about Epstein's Insider connections, his lawyer, Michael Levy, leaned in and whispered, "I will f***ing kill you if you answer another question with more than five words, OK?" Wexner nervously laughed it off.

Wexner's past with lawyers is shady at best. In 1985, Arthur Shapiro, the attorney who oversaw the account for The Limited, a clothing company of which Wexner was CEO, was under investigation by the IRS for illegal tax schemes. Before a scheduled grand jury testimony, Shapiro was killed mob-style, being shot twice in the head.

Allegedly Cutting Ties With Epstein

"I completely and irrevocably cut ties with Epstein nearly twenty years ago when I learned that he was an abuser, a crook and a liar," Wexner said in prepared remarks. But this is false.

The Epstein files reveal that Wexner spoke to Epstein in June 2008, after Epstein pleaded guilty to child trafficking. "Abigail [Wexner's wife] told me the result … all I can say is I feel sorry. You violated your own number 1 rule … always be careful," Wexner wrote. Epstein replied, "no excuse."

In a letter Epstein drafted to Wexner, the pedophile wrote, "You and I had 'gang stuff" for over 15 years," adding that he was "truly sorry to hear that you have been the target of an extortion attempt" by Virginia Giuffre, one of Epstein's victims who allegedly committed suicide after being hit by a bus. Giuffre claimed she was raped by Epstein, disgraced former Prince Andrew of Great Britain, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Possessed by a Demon?

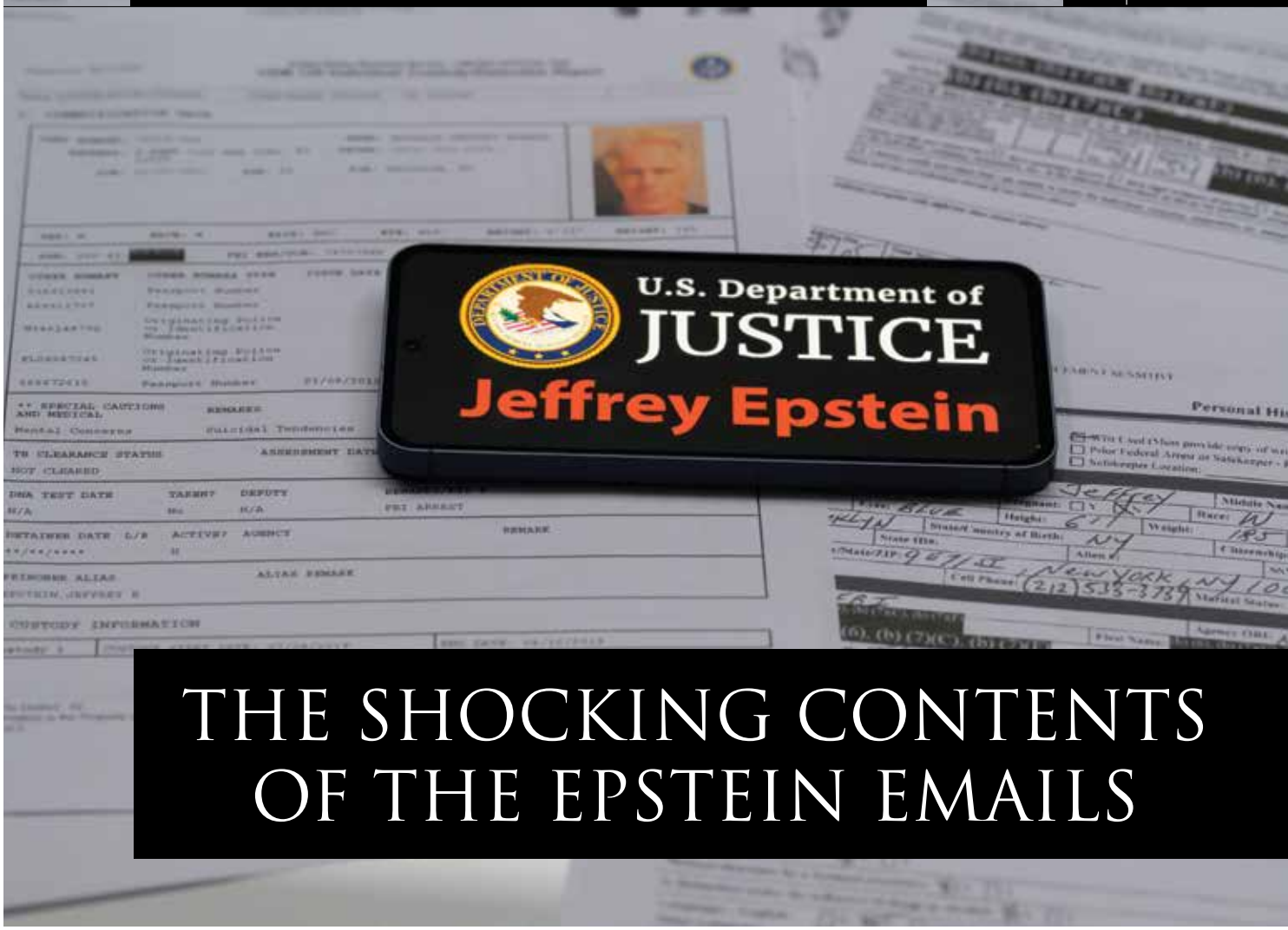
To make matters worse, the Wexner fortune and empire were inspired and fueled by demonic possession, if his own account is to be believed. In 1985, a biographical article on Wexner was published in *New York* magazine, which revealed, "On the morning Leslie Wexner became a billionaire, he woke up worried, but this was not unusual. He always wakes up worried because of his dybbuk, which pokes and prods and gives him the itchiness of soul that he calls *shpilkes*." In Jewish mythology, the *dybbuk* is a malicious possessing spirit believed to be the dislocated soul of a dead person.

The story ends with a chilling revelation: "Les Wexner picks up his heavy black case and flies off in his Challenger, with his dybbuk sitting next to him, taunting and poking him with impatience, that little demon he really loves. The dybbuk turns his face. What does he look like? 'Me,' says Les Wexner."

What Comes Next

Speaking on the House floor on February 24, Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) asked, "Who are the men that we should investigate?" After listing two others first, Massie added, "And Les Wexner. Why did the FBI list him as a co-conspirator in their own documents in a child sex trafficking case and then tell him … they had no questions for him?" The Department of Justice must criminally investigate the billionaire, he concluded.

It is crucial for Americans to demand complete and full accountability for all those who enabled and funded Epstein. Leslie Wexner would be a great place for the DOJ to start. ■



THE SHOCKING CONTENTS OF THE EPSTEIN EMAILS

AP Photo

AT A GLANCE

- **The partial release of the Epstein files has shed light on the deviancy of the elites.**
- **The level of perversion goes much deeper than many people imagine.**
- **Emails suggest Epstein was purchasing children and babies for sex, torture, and even murder.**
- **The full truth of the evil of the Epstein class might never be revealed.**

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to The New American *and a former newspaper editor.*

R. Cort Kirkwood

What appeared to be the story of a sex pervert who trafficked young women and abused girls as young as 11 is even darker than first thought. The FBI's files on Wall Street moneybags Jeffrey Epstein, who supposedly committed suicide while in federal lockup after his indictment on sex trafficking charges, show that his tastes went beyond mere sex with kids. The files show that Epstein purchased or attempted to purchase babies, used girls as baby incubators, and discussed babies in terms of food such as shrimp and cream cheese. He tortured girls as well, and confessed that he was a demonic sex criminal who imported children to his private island in the Caribbean, Little Saint James, to molest them. Worse still, sources say, he murdered at least three people — a baby and two foreign girls.

The revelations are in the second dump of Epstein files at the U.S. Justice Department's website, which requires users to verify that they are 18 years old before viewing. The sex crimes are beyond belief. The files are packed with the names of the rich, famous, and powerful, such as Wall Street financier Leon Black and Microsoft magnate Bill Gates.

Yet it's the details in the emails that sicken the stomach, as Representative Tim Burchett (R-Tenn.) told podcaster Benny Johnson. So disturbing is the material that one shouldn't view it, he told Johnson.

"If you're offered an opportunity to view the pictures or read the files, I would seriously consider not doing that because it will haunt you," Burchett said. Noting that the Barack Obama and Joe Biden administrations knew what was

During Attorney General Pam Bondi's testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, the Epstein victims in the room were asked to raise their hands if they had not been able to meet with the Justice Department. Bondi was then asked to look at them and apologize, but she did neither.

AP Photo

in the files, Burchett called the crimes "satanic" and "from the pits of hell," which is "where these people will end up."

How It Began

The story of Epstein's criminal career begins in 2008 with a sweetheart plea deal he arranged with a federal prosecutor, Alexander Acosta, who went on to serve as secretary of labor in Donald Trump's first administration. In Florida, Epstein faced a 32-count federal indictment for raping dozens of girls as young as 14 going back to 2001. He promised them money in exchange for "massages." "Under the federal charges, Mr. Epstein could have faced life in prison," *The New York Times* reported. "After the deal, he served 13 months in jail [on state charges]. He had work-release privileges for six days a week, 12 hours each day, during which a private driver picked him up and took him to a nearby office."

But then came another federal indictment in July 2019. From 2002 through 2005, it alleged, Epstein "enticed and recruited, and caused to be enticed and recruited, dozens of minor girls to visit" two of his homes to "engage in sex acts with him, after which he would give the victims hundreds of dollars in cash." Epstein paid the victims to recruit more victims and "created a vast network of underage victims for him to sexually exploit."

Government documents surfaced alleging that Epstein flew girls between 11 and 18 years old to his island. But he didn't act alone. His key assistant in the criminal enterprise was Ghislaine Maxwell, the jet-setting socialite and daughter of deceased publisher Robert Maxwell, an Israeli agent. Maxwell landed a 20-year prison sentence for her role in the crimes, including participating in the rapes. One of her victims claimed Maxwell raped her between 20 and 30 times. Another victim alleged that Epstein and Maxwell threatened to feed her to alligators if she revealed their crimes.

Had there been a hangman with a rope awaiting a conviction, Epstein would have cheated him. The rapist supposedly hanged himself with a bed sheet in his cell at New York City's federal Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) on August 10, 2019. Skeptics believe Epstein was the victim of a Deep State hit to keep him quiet about the elites to whom he provided girls and women.

Then came Virginia Giuffre, who allegedly committed suicide (or was "suicided") last year. She claimed that Epstein and Maxwell forced her to have sex with then-Prince Andrew of England, now Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor because his brother, King Charles, stripped him of his royal titles. The disgraced royal also figures in the latest document dump. When Giuffre sued him for the rapes, he settled. His mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II, helped pay up.

British cops recently arrested Mountbatten-Windsor and Peter Mandelson — British ambassador to the United States until last September, when Prime Minister Keir Starmer sacked him — for passing official secrets to Epstein. If Mandelson is found guilty, his crimes will pale in comparison to what Mountbatten-Windsor is alleged to have done. And what he did pales in comparison to what Epstein did.

The Big Document Dump — "Black Market Babies," Human Sacrifice

Oddly, the Trump administration fought the release of the Epstein files even after Congress passed and Trump signed a bill requiring their release. A first release in September was inadequate, the bill's backers said. Led by GOP Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Democratic Representative Ro Khanna of California, bipartisan fury ensued. Finally, the Justice Department released a second batch in February.

Epstein was obsessed with babies. A

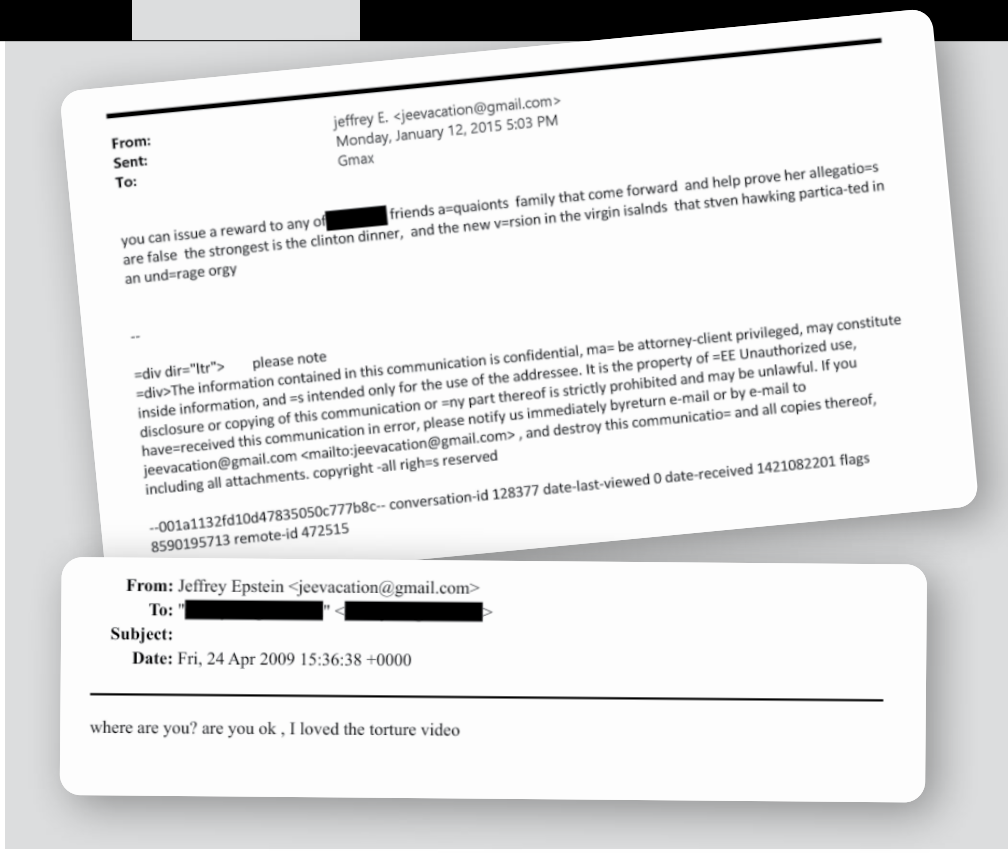
victim says he used her as a baby incubator, and the files darkly hint that Epstein was interested in trafficking if not eating them.

In an email dated August 10, 2013, an Epstein victim claimed that "you offered to buy my baby six months into our relationship." As well, one victim wrote in her diary that Maxwell supervised the birth of her daughter in 2002 and took the child 10 minutes after she was born, and that Epstein discussed "perfect offspring" and a "superior gene pool."

"There is no respect for me as a human," the victim wrote. "I am nothing but your property and incubator!"

"Superior gene pool?!?" she wrote:

> Why me? It makes no sense. Why my hair color and eye color? That feels very Nazi like. …
>
> I miss the person I was before I was made into what feels as a human incubator.



From: jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Gmax

you can issue a reward to any of [redacted] friends a=quaionts family that come forward and help prove her allegatio=s are false the strongest is the clinton dinner, and the new v=rsion in the virgin isalnds that stven hawking partica-ted in an und=rage orgy

--

=div dir="ltr"> please note
=div>The information contained in this communication is confidential, ma= be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and =s intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of =EE Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or =ny part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have=received this communication in error, please notify us immediately byreturn e-mail or by e-mail to jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> , and destroy this communicatio= and all copies thereof, including all attachments. copyright -all righ=s reserved

--001a1132fd10d47835050c777b8c-- conversation-id 128377 date-last-viewed 0 date-received 1421082201 flags 8590195713 remote-id 472515

From: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>
To: "[redacted]" <[redacted]>
Subject:
Date: Fri, 24 Apr 2009 15:36:38 +0000

where are you? are you ok , I loved the torture video

An email dated December 29, 2020 says "[redacted] spoke of this going on at [Epstein's New Mexico] Zorro Ranch. She has said on record that Epstein offered her money to do this. Birth babies for black market use."

But Epstein often spoke of babies in code. In an email dated July 16, 2009, the subject is "cream cheese baby."

"There are millions of babies, very little good vegetable cream cheese," he wrote.

"LOL," his interlocutor replied. "I don't know if cream cheese and baby are on the same level."

On April 14, 2020, a source whose name is redacted called the FBI and described a satanic crime. "Jeffery Epstein's Zorro Ranch and affiliated 'cabins' were used as a location for sex and giving victims of rape sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)," the source told the FBI. The summary of the conversation continues:

> Sex and STDs were then used as black mail against rape victims from the ranch. The STDs then turned the victim's brains to mush so they could not tell their story. Several victims of Epstein are known to [redacted] however, [redacted] would not provide further information about these victims. One female victim was raped multiple times and became pregnant. The baby was then sacrificed and buried at the Christ United Methodist Church near [redacted] in Albuquerque, New Mexico. [Redacted] would not disclose the name of the victim or provide any further information.

On July 10, 2017, Sarah Kellen, a key Epstein aide in his sex trafficking but who received an immunity deal in connection with his prosecution in 2008, requested that a fellow Epstein gofer send a painting to the Zorro Ranch.

"Jeffrey is asking if you can Fedex the painting he had made of the Massacre of the Innocents to the ranch," she wrote. "It's the large 9'x9' canvas that we had rolled out for him to see in the entry way where they are killing babies. He wants to use it on the ranch and is hoping you could Fedex it to arrive by Wednesday?"

The revelations are in the second dump of Epstein files at the U.S. Justice Department's website, which requires users to verify that they are 18 years old before viewing. The sex crimes are beyond belief. The files are packed with the names of the rich, famous, and powerful.

Pam Bondi
AP Photo

The painting was a reproduction of Cornelis van Haarlem's 1591 original.

A photo in the files shows an infant in a sink holding something. "Some are like shrimp, you throw away the head, keep the body," Epstein wrote in an email.

The files mention pizza 895 times, cheese 1,125 times, and "pizza and grape soda" multiple times. Those words are said to be code for child sex abuse, and some believe they strongly suggest that the "debunked" Pizzagate conspiracy, which purported that child rapists were operating out of a pizza parlor in Washington, D.C., was true.

In April 2018, texting with a urologist named Harry Fisch, Epstein asked him to prescribe 10 tablets of Stendra 100, an erectile-dysfunction drug. "I just did. You can pick them up now," Fisch wrote. (His name appears as "Fish" in the files' text messages.) He advised: "After you use them, wash your hands and let's go get pizza and grape soda." That raises the obvious observation that a man does not go out for "pizza and grape soda" after he doses himself with such a drug.

Rape, Torture, and Murder

Other files document torturing and/or murdering girls and women. *The New York Times* reported that Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem was identified as the sender of a torture video to Epstein in 2009. "Where are you?" Epstein wrote on April 24. "Are you OK, I loved the torture video." Almost seven years to the day later, Epstein wrote this note to Sulayem: "thank you , they are a treasure, no girl in dubai is safe tonite." Sulayem resigned as chairman of logistics company DP World on February 13.

More torture talk is in an email exchange on September 9, 2011 with Italian financial executive Tancredi Marchiolo.

Epstein: "what would you like me to do with your friend?"

Marchiolo: "Hit on her!"

Epstein: "do you want me to try to do her.. or just torture her"

Marchiolo: "She wrote me on blackberry messanger that you are very nice and clever and sent a smiley face. She has excellent oral skills."

The files are full of revolting photos of Epstein cuddling little girls. A redacted email exchange dated September 22, 2016 features the subject line "virgin," with an image of Epstein with a little girl. "Age 11," the email says.

Epstein confessed in an email that he imported kids to the island to rape them. "Your friend alleza told me about the project she is doing researching a really bad guy that gets children for sex sent to his island," he wrote to Russian financier Masha Drokova on December 28, 2018. "She almost fainted when i told her that person is me."

Martin Nowak, a Harvard professor recently placed on leave because of his strangely close relationship with Epstein, emailed Epstein on March 10, 2014:

Nowak: "Our spy was captured after completing her mission."

Epstein: "Did you torture her"

A confidential email in the files, dated November 21, 2019, claims that Epstein and Maxwell murdered two girls during sex and buried them at his Zorro Ranch near Stanley, New Mexico.

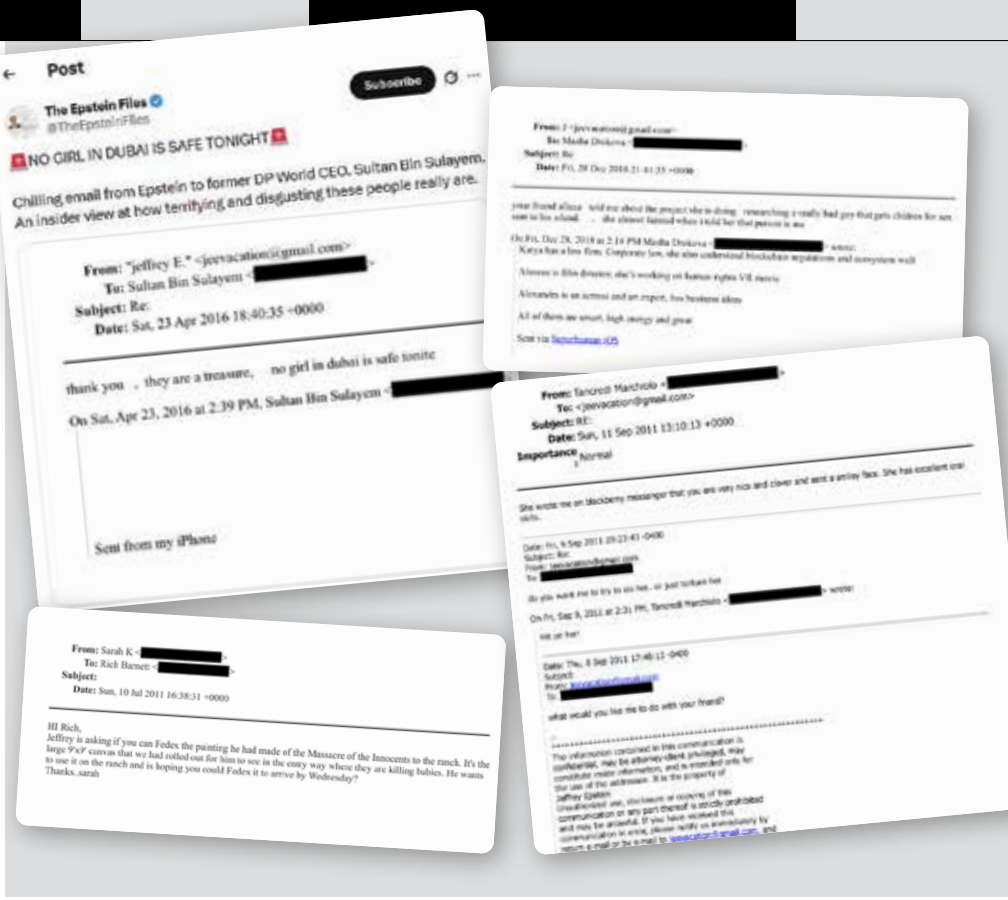
"This is sensitive, so it will be the first and last email depending on your discretion," the email to Albuquerque radio host Eddy Aragon says.

The information comes from an Epstein employee who took items from the ranch "as my insurance in case of future litigation against Epstein," the sender wrote. The sender would not answer questions.

"What is damning about Jeffrey Epstein is yet to be written," the email says:

> Did you know somewhere in the hills outside the Zorro, two foreign girls were buried on orders of Jeffrey and Madam G? Both died by strangulation during rough, fetish sex.
>
> Here are the video footage of Jeffrey Epstein:
>
> 1. Link <truncated> 13min.57secs (sex video with minor)
> 2. Link <truncated> 27min.03secs threesomes (video)
> 3. Link <truncated> 12min.54secs threesomes (video)
> 4. Link <truncated> 19mins.22secs underage girl (sex video)
> 5. Link <truncated> 7mins.3lsecs underage girl (Matthew Mellon video)
> 6. Link <truncated> 23mins.48secs underage girl (rape fantasy video)
> 7. Link <truncated> 15mins.19secs Girl from Bay area suicide attempt confession to Madam G (audio)

The sender asked for a one-bitcoin payment in exchange for the material, promising that a "USB will be sent anonymously to your attention by overnight courier upon receipt of the funds. You have my assurance this is exclusive, never shared before. No attorneys. No samples. No questions please. Confirm asap."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NO GIRL IN DUBAI IS SAFE TONIGHT
Chilling email from Epstein to former DP World CEO, Sultan Bin Sulayem. An insider view at how terrifying and disgusting these people really are.
From: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>
To: Sultan Bin Sulayem -
Subject: Re:
Date: Sat, 23 Apr 2016 18:40:35 +0000
thank you . they are a treasure, no girl in dubai is safe tonite
On Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 2:39 PM, Sultan Bin Sulayem -
Sent from my iPhone
From: Sarah K -
To: Rich Barnett -
Subject:
Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2011 16:38:31 +0000
HI Rich,
Jeffrey is asking if you can Fedex the painting he had made of the Massacre of the Innocents to the ranch. It's the large 9'x9' canvas that we had rolled out for him to see in the entry way where they are killing babies. He wants to use it on the ranch and is hoping you could Fedex it to arrive by Wednesday?
Thanks. sarah
From: Tancredi Marchiolo -
To: <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject: RE:
Date: Sun, 11 Sep 2011 13:10:13 +0000
Importance: Normal

Aragon reported the email to the FBI, which confirmed the validity of the bitcoin wallet. "Aragon believes the email could be valid since he uses his full first name and thinks he is listener to his radio show," the FBI report says. On February 18, the New Mexico Department of Justice announced that it is investigating the allegations.

One very credible document, given what we know about Epstein, is a questionnaire related to one of the many lawsuits against the sex fiend. The 22 pages detail the harrowing ordeal of a young woman who had fled to New York to escape "a physically and mentally abusive relationship." She was foreign and "vulnerable," and, as was typical, "carefully selected as the perfect victim to be sex trafficked by Epstein." The woman wrote that her "predator," whose name is redacted, coerced her into a "false friendship" and learned that the victim's "true ambition" was to study at a college, the name of which is redacted. "Like all sex trafficking grooming stages, Epstein quickly met my needs to achieve my Dreams," the woman explained, noting that her predator "told me she knew a wealthy philanthropist who could help me." Epstein vowed to send the woman to her "dream school under certain conditions."

The same or another predator befriended her and "coerced" her into visiting Epstein's torture island, Little Saint James. "She said it was purely a girl's trip, and once on the island, Epstein's sexual abuse started and continued until May 2007," the woman said:

> My passport was taken away and I could not leave and he always promised to find me if I left. Epstein had complete control over every aspect of my life, including medication, shelter, food and basic human living necessities. He delighted in torturing me by dangling rewards for being raped that were never entirely within reach with the help of an extensive network of enablers, including [name or names redacted].

Epstein threatened to murder the young woman's family to keep her.

"The fact that my predator was paid money for my delivery to Epstein means I was sold into sex slavery," the woman wrote, noting that she met "Epstein's 'girlfriend'" on his plane to the island. The girlfriend, whose name is redacted, "sexually assaulted me in early 2007."

The victim also wrote:

> Epstein raped me daily and sometimes up to three times a day.
>
> One day I was in severe distress and afraid; I tried to escape Epstein and the others by trying to swim off St Little James. Epstein and Maxwell, after spending the day being raped, bullied, and belittled, brought me back as if nothing happened.… When I was raped, I was made a cup of tea ... and met with smiles.

Frighteningly, Epstein insisted the victim embark on a starvation diet, supposedly so she could matriculate at her "dream school." "Epstein even got his assistant Lesley Groff to monitor my weight loss and [I] had to send her nude pictures of myself," the woman wrote:

> On the 6th February 2007 I wrote to Lesley "Please could you also let him know that I am now 57kg and that everything is going well in [redacted].
>
> On the 8th of February 2007, I wrote to Lesley "Could you please tell Jeffrey to phone me on the number I have asap as I'm not prepared to go under 56kg [123 pounds] in order to study at [redacted].
>
> On the 16th of Febuary Lesly writes to me "Hi … Jeffery is awaiting your picture! … and why were you hoping to hear from me before going to bed??"

Then there is Mountbatten-Windsor, the former Prince Andrew.

An email exchange dated August 11-12, 2010 between him and Epstein, with Mountbatten-Windsor calling himself "The Duke," seems innocent enough. Epstein is apparently setting up the 50-year-old "Duke" with a 26-year-old Russian woman.

But another, more-than-disturbing document regarding Mountbatten-Windsor in the files is an FBI intake report received July 13, 2020.

"When I was 6-8 years old and living at in Surrey, UK, I was drugged at night and driven by my father, to pedophile ring 'parties,'" the report says:

Prince Andrew with Epstein victim Virginia Giuffre, and Ghislaine Maxwell in the background

U.S. Department of Justice

> The main house I was taken to is located behind Thorpe Green, at the end of a private road. Hurst Farm Livery Stables is next door. In the driveway of this house, I was hit by a dark blue car with a personalised license plate ending in "M," driven by Prince Andrew. I was not taken to hospital, but I suffered permanent injuries to my ribs, hip and leg on my right side. The car's hood figurine broke off in my hand on impact and I later buried it near my home, so it could still be recoverable as evidence.

As bad as that sounds, the narrative worsens. The victim "woke up to Prince Andrew," then fled the house "naked."

The victim claimed that "I was also taken to another house that I later recognised as Frogmore Cottage when its refurbishment was in the news in 2018," the FBI report recounts:

> There, I was restrained on a table and tortured with electrical shocks by Ghislaine Maxwell and surrounded by watching men. I remember seeing Prince Andrew's face. I tried to sneak out. Maxwell caught me and beat me with the bristle end of a broom. She also threatened me, saying that I "deserved to die" and hit me in the face with the broom, breaking my nose. I was only taken to the hospital for the broken nose after a rugby match, so that the injury could be blamed on that.

The files contain a photo of the former royal on all fours over a woman on the floor, and another with him playing on the floor with a baby. On the floor between them is a ball resembling a human breast and adorned with a nipple.

Unsolved Mystery

An FBI report described Epstein as "happy" to have made a phone call the day before he supposedly committed suicide.

Yet the report also explains how officials smuggled Epstein's corpse out of the MCC. While some officials guarded the remains until their departure in a "black vehicle," others set up a decoy "to thwart the media." They "used boxes and sheets to create what appeared to be a human body, which was put into the white [Office of Chief Medical Examiner] vehicle which the press followed, allowing the black vehicle to depart unnoticed with Epstein's body."

That sounds reasonable enough. But the Epstein files contain two documents about his health that are inexplicable. During an interview with Nobel Laureate Richard Axel, who quit Columbia University's Mind Brain Behavior Institute on February 24 because of his relationship with the sex pervert, Epstein told Axel that he didn't have a prostate. The two were discussing the effects of testosterone.

"You can have high testosterone and still have a need for Viagra, because you don't have a prostate, right?"

"Correct," Epstein replied.

The results from a prostate specific antigen test by Labcorp, which put Epstein's PSA at 0.7, suggest that he underwent a complete prostate removal. "According to the American Urological Association, Serum PSA should decrease and remain at undetectable levels after radical prostatectomy," the report says.

Yet Epstein's autopsy report avers that the deceased sex offender did indeed have a prostate. Noting that Epstein's bladder contained 5ml of "cloudy, yellow urine," the coroner reported that "the prostate is slightly and diffusely enlarged."

Some of the most repellent accusations in the files came from victims of Epstein pal Leon Black, the billionaire investor, and were the genesis of a failed lawsuit against him in 2023. They are best not repeated. Yet those allegations and the material reproduced paint a picture of a sulfurous netherworld over which Epstein ruled with unchallenged authority.

That Epstein was a willing agent of Satan is all too clear. Also clear is that federal authorities could have stopped him long ago. The sex fiend skated free, recall, of federal prosecution in 2008. The rape, torture, and what victims allege is outright murder went on for 11 more years, until he was finally arrested in 2019.

That same year — during the first Trump administration, mind you — New Mexico officials were investigating possible sex trafficking at Epstein's Zorro Ranch. Prosecutors in the Southern District of New York took control of the probe, then shut it down. As *The New York Times* reported, "It is unclear whether the F.B.I. ever looked into the tip" from radio host Aragon that Epstein and Maxwell murdered and buried two girls there.

Infuriatingly, the whole truth about Epstein, his sex trafficking clients, and his many victims might also be buried. ■

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QUICK QUOTES

"It's clearly an informal governance body over what the rest of us consider the authorities, which is to say governments — nation-states."
Tucker Carlson *discussed a hidden global network revealed in the Epstein files with International Media Investments anchor Hadley Gamble.*

"Seventy percent of Americans are either obese or overweight, and not because they got indolent or because we became lazy or because we suddenly developed giant appetites. It's because we're being given food that is low in nutrition and high in calories, and it's destroying our health."
Health and Human Services Secretary **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** *appeared on* 60 Minutes *to discuss his agency's new dietary guidelines.*

"If you want to prove that vaccines actually make children healthier, just compare those that received them to those that didn't. And the fact that not a single health agency in the world has ever been able to do a study that compared vaccinated to unvaccinated, and show that the vaccinated are actually the healthier children, I find that incredibly troubling. You would shut up the anti-vaxxers. It'd be over."
Viva Frei interviewed film producer and Informed Consent CEO **Del Bigtree** *about his new documentary* An Inconvenient Study.

"I believe the time has come to bring Europe's mutual defense clause to life. Mutual defense is not an optional task for the European Union. It is an obligation within our own treaty — Article 42.7 — and for good reason. It is our collective commitment to stand by each other in case of aggression, or in simple terms, one for all and all for one. And this is Europe's meaning."
Ursula von der Leyen, *president of the European Commission, invoked the Treaty on European Union during the 62nd Munich Security Conference in February to undermine the sovereignty of European nations.*

"We also know that one of the most important initiatives, one of the most important policies of this administration, and it was the first thing that President Trump said to me when we met, is we need to reindustrialize America. We need to onshore manufacturing again. We need to help America make things again."
At a recent Center for Strategic and International Studies fireside chat on "Securing American Leadership on AI," **Jensen Huang**, *CEO of NVIDIA, emphasized the need for American manufacturing independence.*

"This is very serious. Now we are witnessing an invasion. They are not refugees. No, this is an invasion — a mass Islamization of Europe which already went on for a minimum of 50 or 60 years: the Islamization of Europe. But now it is *en masse*. It is very evident. And so this is a global political agenda by the powerful of the world to destroy Europe culturally and religiously — to destroy Christianity ultimately in Europe."
Bishop Athanasius Schneider, *a Roman Catholic prelate from Kazakhstan, made this observation during a personal appearance at a church in Berlin, New Jersey, more than nine years ago.* ■

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell

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Bucking the Establishment

Thomas Massie's Fight for Representative Government

Thomas Massie for Congress

AT A GLANCE

- Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) is the most consistent constitutionalist in Congress.
- He has come under fire recently for voting against the GOP and Trump administration.
- Rather than "draining the swamp," Trump and the Establishment are working to "primary" him.
- Massie believes his chances of retaining his House seat are good.

by Christian Gomez

In the following interview with *The New American's* Christian Gomez, Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) offered a candid assessment of his congressional reelection battle and the broader struggle for constitutional governance in Washington. Below is an abridged and lightly edited transcript of the interview, which was recorded on January 19 for *The New American's Unrestricted*. The full interview is available to watch for free at TheNewAmerican.com and *The New American's* Facebook and X accounts.

***TNA*: What first motivated you to run for Congress back in 2012? And what is motivating you to keep running this year, in 2026?**

Massie: I joke that it was bad judgment in 2012. But what motivates me now is that I have seen how messed up the swamp is. If I could get a lobotomy and leave and forget everything that I knew about Washington, D.C., I might take it — kind of like getting back into the Matrix (great movie; I watched it

Christian Gomez is research project manager for The John Birch Society.

Thomas Massie for Congress

again the other night). But once you're out of the Matrix and you know what's really happening, morally you have to keep doing it. And my race has become a proxy battle for several things. I think the main thing is, can you go to Washington, D.C., and vote your conscience? Are you allowed to vote differently than your party 10 percent of the time, or are they going to demand complete compliance? And if you don't comply, can you get reelected? We're going to answer that question on May 19 for my [primary] election, so the weight is heavier on my shoulders because of that. I think there are at least 30 members of Congress who are watching my race and deciding whether they will ever step out of line again, or whether they will step out of line the first time. That's why it's so important in my opinion.

***TNA*:** What do your poll numbers and gut tell you about winning the election this time?

Massie: Well, my gut feels good. And there are two betting markets: Kalshi and Polymarket, and they both have me at above a 75-percent chance of winning right now, so that's a good thing. The president has said that I'm at six percent, I'm at eight percent, I'm at nine percent, which is kind of funny. My polls in my district — we did one in September and we did one in December — show that I'm winning, particularly against the candidate that I'm running against. He has less than 20-percent name ID right now. In the poll, just to get a feel for how this will play out, we inform people that Trump has endorsed my opponent; then we ask the question again, "Now who would you vote for?" And the good news is I still win [even] when you let them know that Trump has endorsed my opponent. Then when we let them know some good stuff about me and some bad stuff about him that he may have even forgotten about (but he's about to find out soon enough in the ads), the polling looks really good. So it's going to be litigated at the ballot box. It's going to be litigated over the next 120 days on the airwaves (TV and radio), on social media ads, in the mail — and in the ground game.

***TNA*:** So what kind of response are you getting on the campaign trail when you get out there and speak to voters?

Massie: You know, it depends on if they're for me or not. The ones who are for me say this other guy doesn't have a chance. I think it's a serious race, and so I wouldn't go that far; I think we have to execute and win. What I hear from the vast majority of people — not the ones who are big Massie fans and not the ones who are Massie haters, but your run of the mill person in Kentucky's 4th District — when I meet them at a Rotary Club or at a county fair, they say, "You know what, I don't agree with you all the time — maybe 80 percent of the time or 90 percent of the time — but I sure do appreciate that you are up there fighting for us." And they say they're going to vote for me. So it feels good in the polls, it feels good on the ground, the betting markets look good. We'll see. But I think they're going to spend upwards of $10 million or $20 million against me. There was a salvo last summer where they spent $2 million against me in the course of just a few

My race has become a proxy battle for several things. I think the main thing is, can you go to Washington, D.C., and vote your conscience? Are you allowed to vote differently than your party 10 percent of the time, or are they going to demand complete compliance?

weeks. I expect them to start pounding me on the airwaves and in the mailboxes here pretty soon, and we're just going to have to tough it out for the next four months.

***TNA*:** So aside from Senator Rand Paul [R-Ky.], what other well-known and influential people are helping you get reelected down there?
Massie: Well, you know, Marjorie [Taylor Greene] left Congress, but she's volunteered to come to Kentucky to help me fight any time. And one good thing is, I have the support of a lot of elected people that I've helped out over the years to get elected. And it's not an "I'll scratch your back, you scratch mine" kind of situation. We've got Liberty legislators and magistrates all the way down to the county clerk level; we've got magistrates and state representatives and state senators who are backing me. When Rand comes and campaigns with me in the district, that's a big deal; he's very popular here. And many of the state reps — they don't really have a formal caucus, but they're sort of like the Liberty gang in Frankfort, Kentucky. And they know that they're trying to take me out, and after they take me out, they would take out these state reps. I think Rand feels the same sentiment. He's safe right now, but if they take me out, then there would be blood in the water and they would probably go after Rand and these state legislators next.

***TNA*:** Historically, midterm elections don't go well for the sitting president's party in Congress. And with Republicans possessing such a very narrow majority in the House, why do you think that President Trump is expending so much political capital to defeat you? Shouldn't he be focusing on helping Republicans win in districts where the Democrats stand a good chance of winning and eliminating the Republican majority?
Massie: Well, you're absolutely right. We've got to try to hold on to the majority. If we don't, they'll impeach him. They'll impeach interns who haven't turned in their lunch receipts yet. They're going to go on an impeachment party; there will be an impeachment every month and they'll just tie him up. It'll be very unfortunate if we lose the majority. And that's why

AP Photo / Evan Vucci

I think not just [that] the political capital that he's spending should be spent on trying to keep the majority, but also the money that's being spent against me is money that could be used to keep Republicans in vulnerable districts in their office, or to gain some seats in those districts. I think it's not a wise choice, but here we go. We'll see how it ends up.

***TNA*:** On January 5, in a post on Truth Social, President Trump called you a "weak and pathetic RINO." What is your response to him and others labeling you a RINO?
Massie: Regarding your own scorecard there at *The New American*, I often score 100 percent on the Freedom Index, which is a measure of how often you vote with the Constitution. I do nearly as well with Turning Point USA. I have 100 percent for this session of Congress right now with them. You can look at any of these scorecards, whether it's Heritage or Gun Owners of America, any of the conservative, pro-life scorecards. I'm always at the top of the list for all of the legislators from Kentucky, all the U.S. representatives — and I have to say U.S. *representatives*; I don't want to say all of Congress, because sometimes Rand Paul can outscore me…. It's just crazy, [Trump's] statements aren't based in fact. And the other thing that I should mention is that I vote with the party — I think last year, or last Congress, I voted with the party 91 percent of the time. The nine percent of the time I'm not voting with the party it's because they're starting a war, bankrupting the country, or covering up for pedophiles. I had somebody send me a donation of $15 the other day with a note attached. The note said, "This is for the nine percent."

***TNA*:** Speaking of donations, who are some of the major funders of the campaign against you?
Massie: Well, all we know right now are the three donors who did the salvo last summer, and they're financing a super PAC. They're all three billionaires. It's John Paulson, Paul Singer, and Miriam Adelson. Miriam Adelson brags that she's given $250 million to Donald Trump, and Trump more or less says that she values Israel more than America and that he's done things simply because she asked him to do things. She also, I believe, bought a sports team. She believes she can buy politicians like she does sports teams, and so far that's

Donald Trump with Miriam Adelson

AP Photo / Alex Brandon

worked out for her. She's going to try that in Kentucky's 4th District, but I don't think that's going to work out for her.

Now for the other donors. Paul Singer, interestingly, recently bought Citgo, which is the nationalized Venezuelan oil company, for pennies on the dollar before the invasion. He stands to make billions of dollars from the invasion of Venezuela. So you might see why he wouldn't want a Thomas Massie in Congress — it's all about padding his own pocketbook. And then the other one, John Paulson, shows up in Epstein's black book. This isn't the list that we're trying to get released, this is a phone book of Epstein's that had personal cell numbers of his friends in it. There were at least a thousand names in his phone book, so it's not an indicator of guilt. But it is an indicator that you were in the Epstein class, that you were in those social circles, and that either you had done something for [Epstein] or he had done something for you, or he thought that could happen. That's why he had those people in his phone book.

All three of those people are billionaires, all three of them are from out of state, and they started attacking me before there was even a candidate in the race to run against me, so that's kind of interesting. They've also done fundraisers for Democrats. Paul Singer has funded, to the tune of millions of dollars, the transgender agenda, activism for transgender causes, and LGBTQ causes, and he's done fundraisers for Democrats, just like John Paulson. Miriam Adelson, she's out of step on abortion, for instance, with Republicans. They're not conservatives, but they do give to Republicans. They could have been giving that money to keep the majority, but so far they've given it to support my opponent. He will be a puppet for them. If he wins by virtue of a super PAC with three billionaires in it, do you think when they call him up and ask for a favor, he's not going to do it?

***TNA*:** In the same Truth Social post that I mentioned earlier, President Trump also accused you of being a "true hater of Israel." Could you set the record straight and clarify what your position on Israel is?

Massie: I don't hate Israel; I can't even think of any country that I hate. There are some rulers of countries that I don't like, like the ruler in North Korea, for instance. But I can't think of any countries that I hate, and certainly not Israel. Something I should mention about the three billionaires is that they're all very tied to Israel. That's what's motivating them to donate and to try to beat me, because they're afraid if one horse gets out of the barn, one Republican strays from the fold, then others may get out of the barn as well. That's why they're attacking me. Trump's attacking me because he wants to keep the other congressmen in line in terms of just voting for whatever thing he wants that day, or staying quiet on social media.

The three billionaires have a different agenda. They're not really fiscally conservative or socially conservative. They backed Trump's opponents before Trump became president, so they're not particularly big fans of Donald Trump either, they're just attacking me on that issue. But here's why they're wrong to do it. I don't vote for foreign aid for any country, and I don't vote for wars. In fact, if the president — whether it's Joe Biden or Barack Obama or President Trump — if the president engages in war without authorization from Congress, I'm opposed to that. And I'm probably opposed to the war even when it does come to Congress, because there hasn't been a cogent case made for any of these AUMFs [Authorizations for Use of Military Force] or overseas adventurism that the American people are better served by risking blood and treasure there. So that's where they get it wrong: It's not just that I'm against the war in Gaza or against a war with Iran — I'm against all wars, and I'm against all foreign aid, particularly to countries that have a lower debt-to-GDP ratio than us.

***TNA*:** So this campaign isn't just about you? It's really about every member of Congress and his or her ability to speak out freely against the president on behalf of their constituents, their conscience, and their oath of office?

Massie: I think so, and that's why I'm taking it so seriously. Again, 91 percent of the time I vote with the party. It's the nine percent that upsets them. And that is the question: Can you express an independent thought in a speech, on social media, or through a vote when it serves your constituents better to do so than to go along with the party? People ask me, "Is there hope? Is there any hope of fixing this?" I say, there's a glimmer of hope. Look, we got the Epstein Files Transparency Act [passed]. Every Republican in Washington, D.C., except for three women — Marjorie Taylor Greene [Ga.], Lauren Boebert [Colo.], and Nancy Mace [S.C.], those three women were with me — every other Republican was either against me or

They're afraid if one horse gets out of the barn, one Republican strays from the fold, then others may get out of the barn as well. That's why they're attacking me.

too chicken to do anything about it, but we still got it to the floor and we got a vote. And what did those other Republicans do? They voted for it when it came to the floor, 427 to 1 in the House, 100 to 0 in the Senate. And who signed it? President Donald Trump, who said just months before it would be a hostile act to even sign my discharge petition. Well, he took a big black Sharpie and committed a hostile act, I suppose, by signing the Epstein Files Transparency Act, and got it into law. So again, when people say, "Is there any hope?" I say, well, as long as I'm in Congress there is, and the fact that we got the Epstein Files Transparency Act passed [means] there is.

***TNA*:** Congressman Massie, you are the lead sponsor of various bills, including the Not A Trusted Organization, or NATO, Act [H.R. 6508] to withdraw the U.S. from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; the Gold Reserve Transparency Act [H.R. 3795] to audit U.S. gold reserves; the Federal Reserve Transparency Act [H.R. 24] to require the U.S. comptroller general to conduct a full audit of the Federal Reserve System; the Federal Reserve Board Abolition Act [H.R. 1846] to repeal the original Federal Reserve Act of 1913 (and to in turn get rid of the Fed); the PRIME Act [H.R. 4700] to empower states to permit intrastate distribution of custom slaughtered meats such as beef, pork, and lamb directly to consumers and supermarkets, restaurants, and hotels; and H.R. 899 to abolish the unconstitutional Department of Education. Among many other bills that you have sponsored and co-sponsored, these bills are all in line with avoiding foreign entanglements and restoring sound money and a constitutional, limited government. So what is keeping many of your Republican colleagues from co-sponsoring and passing these bills and delivering them to the *Resolute* Desk?

Massie: You know, if I could get them to the floor, they would pass, I believe. There are some that they wouldn't vote for; maybe I have too much confidence in my colleagues. I don't know if this was in your list, but one of my favorite bills is the National Constitutional Carry Act [H.R. 9534].

***TNA*:** Yes, that one too.

Massie: It just takes work. I introduce bills that I think the country needs, and they move the needle just by being introduced. But I also work hard to bring votes to the floor. For two years, I was on the Rules Committee, slogging it out, and I forced about 400 votes on amendments during those glorious two years. I have forced votes on war powers resolutions, and we'll have another one of those again soon — probably two of them: one on Venezuela and one on Iran.

***TNA*:** We might need one on Greenland too.

Massie: (Laughs) Yeah, I hope not, I hope not. But we might need one unless they give our president a peace prize or something. It seems like he recently sent a letter and said that you didn't give me the Nobel Peace Prize, and so that's part of the rea-

Interviewer Christian Gomez with Thomas Massie

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1. HR 776 Conservation Programs (Passed 361 to 56 on 2/4/2025, Roll Call 29). Reauthorizes a federal conservation program (the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003) through fiscal 2030. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. -$0.45 NO
2. H J Res 35 EPA Emissions Rule (Passed 220 to 206 on 2/26/2025, Roll Call 52). Overturns an EPA rule that imposed annual fees on oil and gas facilities that emit methane above certain thresholds. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. +$0.05 YES
3. HR 1402 Event-ticket Pricing (Passed 409 to 15 on 4/29/2025, Roll Call 107). Imposes federal regulations on ticket sellers. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. -$0.03 NO
4. HR 1263 Quad Countries (Passed 334 to 51 on 5/19/2025, Roll Call 132). Directs the U.S. secretary of state to deepen America's entanglement in the "Quad," including by creating a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group. NONE
5. HR 4 Fiscal 2025 Rescissions (Passed 214 to 212 on 6/12/2025, Roll Call 168). Rescinds $9.4 billion in funding previously appropriated by Congress for fiscal 2025. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. +$71.00 YES
6. HR 2056 Washington, D.C., "Sanctuary City" Law (Passed 224 to 194 on 6/12/2025, Roll Call 171). Prohibits the District of Columbia from limiting its cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. YES
Report Score: 100%

Photo: Massie for Congress; inset: Congressional Scorecard based on the U.S. Constitution

son we're doing this — we're going to take Greenland. But in any case, I work hard on the parliamentary side, like I did with the Epstein Files Transparency Act, to find a way, any way, to get these bills to the floor. Sometimes all that's required is for me to go to the floor and object to unanimous consent when they try to pass a bill, and then they all have to vote on it. When people say, "Is there hope?" I think one of the [ways] I can give them hope is by forcing votes on the floor of the House, and then you can see which congressmen are truly with you and which ones are against you. Because when they pass these giant bills, like an omnibus bill or the National Defense Authorization Act, which are often thousands of pages long, it's impossible to tell where your congressman stands. He can come home to a town hall that you attend and say, "Well, listen, there was a pay raise for soldiers in there and that's why I had to vote for it." Well, there could also be funding for abortion in there. There could be all sorts of bad stuff in there. And that's why, when I force a vote on these stand-alone bills, some days they hate me for breathing air. But once the people can see who are the congressmen on their side and who are not, then I think the people can do a better job at the ballot box of sorting the good, the bad, and the ugly.

***TNA*:** For those who are watching or reading this interview and want to support and see those bills passed that you've introduced, what's the best way for people to get their congressmen to co-sponsor them?
Massie: Phone calls. I would make three phone calls for each of those bills that you care about, not 20, not 12, not one. The reason I'm telling you to make three phone calls is, according to the U.S. Constitution, you have three people working for you in Washington, D.C. You have two senators of your state and one U.S. representative. And so those are really the only three people that work for you. It may be true that you pay a lot of taxes and part of [other congressmen's] salaries, as everybody's salary is derived from your taxes, but the reality is that only the three people that you can vote for are obligated to respond to you, morally, constitutionally, and at the ballot box. If they don't do a good job, you can replace them. So I would make those three phone calls. I wouldn't send a letter, I wouldn't send a fax, I wouldn't send an email. Those channels of communication are so clogged with spam on our side that it's hard to sort it out. But I may only get two or three phone calls in a day. There are days where I only get one phone call if there's not a lot in the news.

If from 750,000 people only *one* is compelled to pick up the phone and call, that person has an outsized representation. If I'm wondering what my constituents think and I get five phone calls, well those five people just won the day in terms of their voice being heard disproportionately to the rest of them. So make a phone call.

***TNA*:** Thank you so much, Congressman Massie, for your time. And, of course, best of luck and God's blessings on your re-election effort.
Massie: Thank you, Christian. God bless. ■

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Billboard depicting Ali Khamenei in Tehran, Iran

AP Photo

THE IRAN WAR AND THE CONSTITUTION

AT A GLANCE

- Iran is but one of many oppressive, mass-murdering regimes.
- The war on Iran, morally justified or not, is unconstitutional.
- The official narrative on Iran has been changing since last June.
- The war will be exploited by the globalists.

Steve Bonta and Gary Benoit are publisher and editor-in-chief of The New American *respectively.*

by Steve Bonta and Gary Benoit

Very recently, heart-wrenching tragedy became the order of the day in one of the world's largest Muslim countries, an ancient desert land ruled for decades by pitiless, bloodthirsty tyrants with whom the United States has crossed swords in the past for supporting Islamic terrorism. During the course of several horrifying days, uniformed troops carried out the unrestrained slaughter and rape of thousands of innocent civilians, prompting claims of genocide. Abroad, the outcry was predictable: The "international community" must do something to stop the atrocities. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration weighed in, promising to try to negotiate an end to the bloodletting.

That, in a nutshell, is what has been going on, comparatively unremarked, in the north African country of Sudan, even as the world's attention has been riveted elsewhere. The slaughter in the Darfur region of western Sudan, mostly inhabited by non-Arab Fur and Zaghawa ethnic groups, has been carried out by a paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), that used to be an arm of the government in Khartoum, but has had a falling out with elements of the army. During the

Smoke from air strikes in Tehran

AP Photo

ensuing nightmare, Sudan's second civil war this century, RSF forces recently besieged and then took the city of El Fasher, slaughtering countless thousands of innocents in the process.

Americans, whose attention is currently focused on the dramatic events unfolding in Iran and across the Middle East, might be forgiven the general ignorance and apathy about events in Sudan. The legacy media, after all, have had little to say about it. Ditto for ongoing horrors in Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen, and elsewhere.

It is events in Iran that have captivated the American public and their media minders of late. In brief, following the reimposition of international sanctions on Iran late last year, the Iranian economy went into hyperinflationary free fall. By Christmas, the Iranian rial had collapsed to essentially zero against hard currencies. Iran's starving, penniless citizens poured into the streets to protest just before New Year's. What started as demonstrations against economic conditions soon morphed into Iran's latest, and largest, pro-freedom movement. Millions of Iranians of all ages took to the streets all across the country to demand the end of the brutal Islamist dictatorship that has ruled Iran for 47 years. Expat Iranians around the world joined in the jubilant "final battle," many calling for the restoration of the Pahlavi dynasty that had once transformed Iran into a free, modern, Western-adjacent country before being displaced by a coalition of radical Islamists and communists in the 1979 revolution.

Unlike other trouble spots such as Myanmar and Sudan, Iran's uprising was livestreamed for the world to see. Many hearts were touched with sympathy for Iran's oppressed millions, and one of them was President Trump.

Only last June, Trump authorized U.S. B-2 bombers to carry out Operation Midnight Hammer, crucial raids on Iranian nuclear facilities at the climactic moment of the Israel-led Twelve-Day War. Yet when Israel tried to continue the war, with the aim of knocking out Iran's terrorist leadership, Trump inexplicably forced Netanyahu to cease and desist, leaving in place the same unrepentant terrorist claque that had ruled Iran since 1979, even while antagonizing the "Great Satan" United States. In the wake of that war, Trump announced that America had achieved its objective — the destruction of Iran's nuclear program — without the loss of a single American life. The very day the U.S. military launched its attack on Iran, President Trump told the American people, "Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated." The following day, he boasted on Truth Social, "Monumental Damage was done to all Nuclear sites in Iran, as shown by satellite images. Obliteration is an accurate term!" And two days later, he said in another post, "It was my great honor to Destroy All Nuclear facilities & capability, and then, STOP THE WAR!"

Operation Midnight Hammer was touted as a model for future targeted, non-quagmire foreign interventionism. Of course, the Iranian government went on a bloodletting binge in the wake of last year's conflict, rounding up, torturing, and creatively executing thousands of accused dissidents and spies.

This time, many believed, would be different. During the December-January pro-

tests, Trump threatened the government of Iran with serious consequences if they began killing protesters, and also told the Iranian people in a January tweet, "To the brave, long-suffering people of Iran: I've stood with you since the beginning of my Presidency, and my Administration will continue to stand with you."

What happened next did not require a Nostradamus to foresee. After several days of exuberant protests featuring calls to restore the Pahlavi monarchy and videos of young women burning hijabs alongside pictures of supreme ruler Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the government in Tehran decided enough was enough. They first turned off the internet, to make sure that what happened next was hidden from the eyes of the world. They then sent cadres of their most hardened IRGC, or Revolutionary Guard, into Iran's cities and began mowing down protesters by the thousands. Despite the internet blackout, videos and images of the appalling carnage did get out, thanks to clandestine Starlink terminals: merciless troops spraying crowds of young people with machine-gun fire, bodies stacked like cordwood outside every morgue, unrepentant Iranian officials insisting that they had only done what any other government would do. Images of murdered young Iranian men and women, many of them accomplished doctors, lawyers, athletes, and scientists, appeared on social media, amplifying and personalizing the tragedy. And President Trump, who had unwisely committed to American involvement, only to have the despots in Tehran call his bluff, was left with no good options: either renege on his pledge of protection and reprisals, as America has done before (Hungary 1956, anyone?), or commit America to yet another undeclared war in the Middle East, where allegiances are always fluid, ethics malleable, and outcomes uncertain.

After several weeks of drama, negotiations, and ultimatums, Trump chose the latter course, unleashing Operation Epic Fury on Iran on February 28. The operation, carried out jointly with the Israel Defense Forces, was in the early going a model of strategic deception and tactical preparation. Whereas most such operations begin under cover of darkness, this one was unleashed in the daytime, catching Iran's government leadership by surprise, and allowing a successful attack that wiped out most of the government's top leadership, including Khamenei himself.

Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, and Pete Hegseth AP Photo

As of this writing, we are five days into a war that has spread rapidly across the entire region. The Trump administration has suggested that, despite being "ahead of schedule," the operation will probably continue for four to five more weeks, and perhaps longer. Like every war, this one has raised hackles and generated controversy and moral outrage, which at this early stage we can only summarize:

• *The war is unconstitutional.* While honest minds may debate the limits of executive war powers in very limited actions or in times of a clear, imminent threat to the American homeland, there can be no doubt that a major theater war, far from American shores, must be sanctioned by Congress, preferably via a formal declaration.

The fact that Congress has not declared war on any hostile power since December 1941 is not an excuse. Certainly many presidents have waged war illegitimately. As James Madison explained in a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1798, "The constitution supposes, what the History of all Govts. demonstrates, that the Ex. [Executive] is the branch of power most interested in war, & most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care, vested the question of war in the Legisl. [Legislature]." This is made clear by language in the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, that it is the purview of Congress not only to "declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water," but also:

> To raise and support Armies…
>
> To provide and maintain a Navy;
>
> To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
>
> To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; [and]
>
> To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States…

In other words, the Constitution grants to Congress not only the authority to declare war (i.e., formally initiate hostilities), but also to fund the military and set the rules of engagement. The authority of the executive branch is in carrying out hostilities, or, otherwise put, to execute the law as manifest in a congressional declaration of war or other authorization. This is no different in theory from other forms of legislation which, once enacted by Congress, it is the duty of the executive branch to implement. Absent these constraints, a presidential act of war is little different than ancient Caesarism.

• *The official rationale for the war has evolved.* On June 21, 2025, the day of Operation Midnight Hammer, Trump jubilantly

AP Photo / Muhammad Sajjad

Protest in Peshawar, Pakistan

told the world that Iran's nuclear program had been completely destroyed. Yet now, less than a year later, Iran's allegedly imminent nuclear capacity is being cited as a major reason for the war. There is little doubt that Iran, with its clandestine nuclear enrichment program, is seeking nuclear weapons, and also little doubt that nukes in the hands of the "Mad Mullahs" would lead to catastrophic results. But it is highly unlikely that Iranian nukes are any more imminent now than they have been for the last several decades, during which we have been warned repeatedly that Iran is on the very brink. Those with long memories will recall similar rhetoric about Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and his alleged nuclear program and weapons of mass destruction. Those turned out to be imaginary — but only after they were used to justify dragging America and the Middle East into a ruinous war of regime change and generational military occupation.

The nuclear question aside, it is undoubtedly true that Iran is a major sponsor of terrorism, and a foe of the United States that is responsible for the deaths of many Americans. But if the threat was so great and *casus belli* so clear, why the long wait? President Trump claims that he is doing what should have been done long ago, but previous U.S. presidents lacked the fortitude to carry out. Perhaps, but the complexity, unpredictability, and moral nuance of war are all very good reasons for due deliberation, per the Constitution, before embarking on them.

• *If this war successfully destroys the Iranian regime and the Iranian people regain control of their government, they will doubtless be better off.* We certainly wish the Iranian people well in their sincere desire to make their own country free and great. And we are reminded that America, too, was once upon a time the beneficiary of foreign powers extending a helping hand when we needed it most. The Battle of Yorktown was won with the help of the French navy, which prevented the British from escaping by sea, allowing Washington to compel the surrender of Cornwallis and his troops. We hope that, however haphazardly this war was embarked upon, it will, as advertised, create the conditions for the Iranians to finish the job themselves, on the ground (although if history is any guide, we will not be surprised if things fail to go according to plan).

In the war's aftermath, expect the globalists to try to take control of postwar nation-building, to ensure that the next iteration of Iran is captive to the "New World Order."

• *Regardless of whether or not America avoids the usual foreign quagmire, yet another precedent has been set for the use of American war powers without congressional consent, and in the service of humanitarian aims.* Regardless of any claims to the contrary, it is clear that this war was embarked upon, at least in part, in response to Iran's flagrant livestreamed oppression. But if the U.S. military is to be deployed to rescue huddled masses from oppression all across the globe, what limits will there be to future executive-branch adventurism? We are not the first empire to justify militarism in the name of benevolence (the Romans and British did the same). If we persist in our hubris, however high-minded, we will end up morally, politically, and financially bankrupt, like every empire that has gone before.

Whatever else happens, it does not appear that Congress will take any action to end the Iran war, the U.S. Senate having voted down a resolution to restrict Trump's war powers vis-à-vis Iran. It is also shaping up to be a messier conflict than first portrayed, with Kurdish militias now preparing to invade Iran, and attempts to overrun U.S. consulates in Pakistan. Only time will tell how all of this shakes out, but we hope that the U.S. Constitution will not end up laid to rest beside Iran's vanquished clerics. ■

AMERICANS' ONEROUS TAX BURDEN

iStock / Getty Images Plus / Pgiam

AT A GLANCE

- A heavy progressive income tax is part of the Marxist program.
- The income tax was jacked up to pay for World War I — and never came down.
- Americans are quadruple-taxed on their incomes.
- Heavy taxes are the price we pay for a welfare/warfare state.

by Laurence M. Vance

The U.S. tax code is a dizzying array and burdensome maze of rates, exemptions, exclusions, credits, deductions, worksheets, forms, phase-out levels, exceptions, and assorted "loopholes." We are bombarded every tax season — especially by Republicans — with cries for tax reform because the tax code is too long, too complex, too confusing, and too time-consuming, and contains too many loopholes. Although these things are certainly true, they are the least of the problems with the tax code. After all, an income tax based on a shorter and simpler tax code is still an income tax.

Laurence M. Vance is an associated scholar of the Mises Institute.

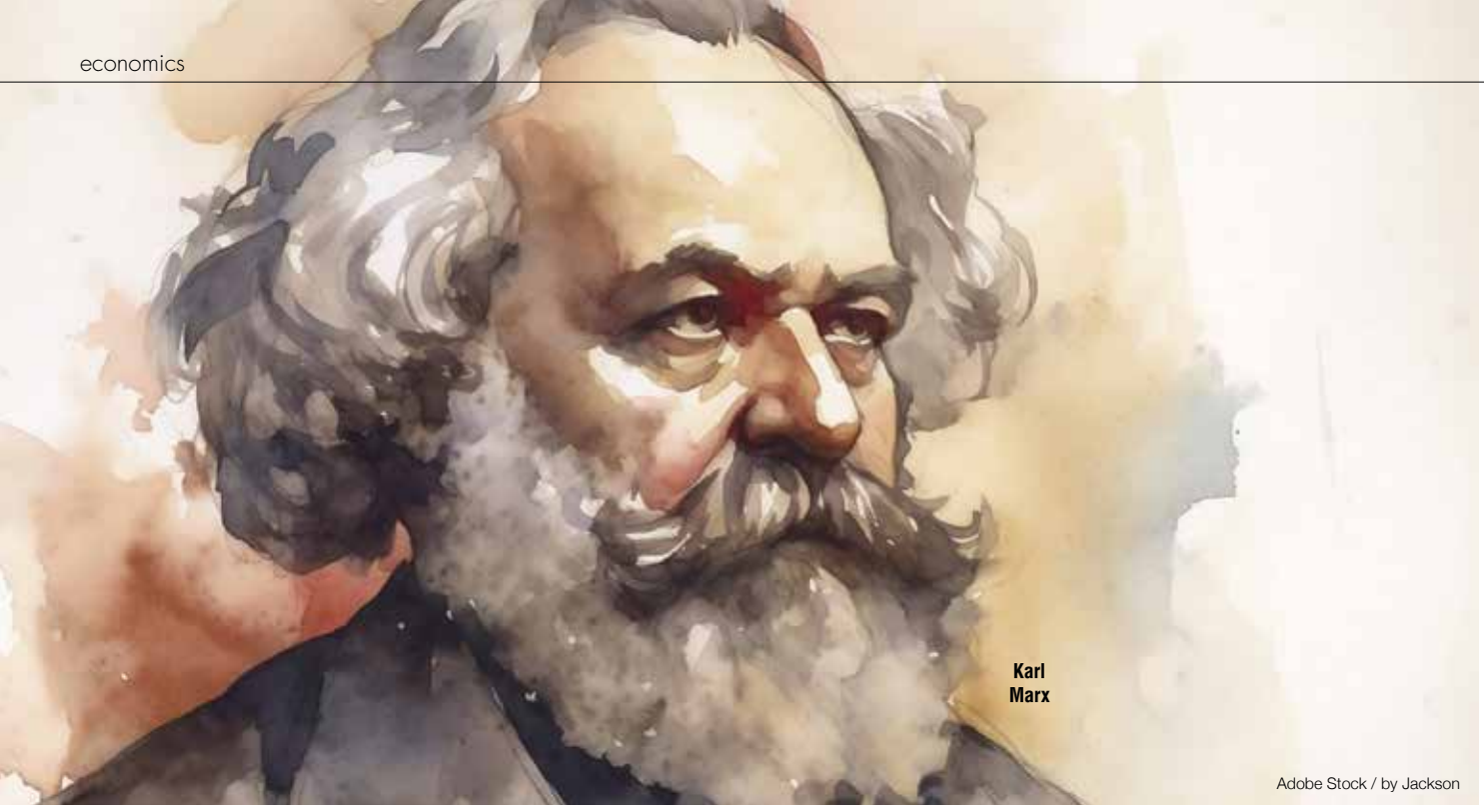
Our Progressive Tax Code

Just before the beginning of tax season this year, a report by the Fraser Institute (a free-market think tank in Canada) revealed that Canadian provinces maintain some of the most progressive tax systems among the 45 high-income Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development jurisdictions studied. This included Japan, South Korea, most European countries, the Canadian provinces, and two American states. One of the report's most shocking revelations was that "the two American jurisdictions analyzed in this study, California and Texas, ranked first and 4th most progressive, respectively, out of 45 jurisdictions, indicating that the US tax system is even more progressive than Canada."

At the end of section two of his *Communist Manifesto*, in addition to calling for the abolition of private property and the centralization of the means of production in the hands of the state, Karl Marx petitioned for "a heavy progressive or graduated income tax." From its very beginning, the U.S. tax code has sought to soak "the rich" with "a heavy progressive or graduated income tax."

For America's first 125 years — before the United States unnecessarily and foolishly entered World War I — there was no permanent income tax in the country. That all changed with the ratification of the 16th Amendment to the Constitution in 1913 (the same year the Federal Reserve System was created). The Revenue Act of 1913, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on October 3, 1913, lowered tariff rates and imposed a tax on incomes.

The income tax began with a modest one-percent tax on taxable income (all interest and taxes paid were deductible from gross income) up to $20,000, followed by a series of surcharges of up to six percent applied to higher incomes. The maximum rate of seven percent was applied to taxable income over $500,000. In addition, there was an exemption of $3,000 for single individuals and $4,000



Karl Marx

Adobe Stock / by Jackson

for married couples. This means that "the rich" had a tax rate that was seven times that of "the poor." The Revenue Act also instituted a one-percent tax on corporate net income. It has been estimated that less than five percent of Americans were subject to the first income tax. This only lasted for three years. (See original IRS form 1040 on facing page.)

To finance the impending American entry into World War I, the Revenue Act of 1916 doubled the lowest rate to two percent and more than doubled the highest rate to 15 percent. And then it was off to the races. The tax rate in the highest tax bracket rapidly increased, to 67 percent in 1917, 77 percent in 1918, 81 percent in 1940, 88 percent in 1942, and a whopping 94 percent in 1944. After dropping briefly, the top tax rate hovered near or above 90 percent between 1950 and 1963, before settling down to 70 percent in 1965. Then, under President Ronald Reagan, the tax brackets were eventually reduced from 16 to two, with a minimum rate of 15 percent and a maximum rate of 28 percent, resulting in the least progressive tax rates in American history. However, tax brackets and tax rates both increased during the presidencies of George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Under President George W. Bush, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 instituted six brackets, of 10, 15, 25, 28, 33, and 35 percent. A new top rate of 39.6 percent was adopted in 2013. President Donald Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018 (TCJA) fixed the tax rates at 10, 12, 22, 24, 32, 35, and 37 percent, where they remain today.

In addition to "the rich" being targeted via higher tax rates, they are also disadvantaged by the phase-out of certain tax deductions and credits. This means that the value of the deduction or credit is reduced by rate or amount as income rises. In some cases, the deduction or credit is disallowed altogether over a certain income level. For example, the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (the Saver's Credit) provides a tax credit of up to $2,000 for married couples filing jointly who contribute to a retirement account. However, for those couples with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of more than $47,500, the credit is reduced by more than half, and disallowed completely once income exceeds $79,000.

But what about President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act? The bill, which was signed into law on July 4 of last year, does include a number of provisions related to income taxes. It extends the major provisions of the TCJA that were set to expire at the end of 2025, increases the standard deduction, introduces a temporary increased extra standard deduction for seniors, temporarily exempts from income tax earnings from overtime and tips, raises the child tax credit and makes it permanent, temporarily increases the SALT deduction (for state and local taxes paid), phases out clean-energy tax credits, allows taxpayers to temporarily deduct car-loan interest payments if they buy an American-made vehicle, raises taxes on university endowments, and raises the estate tax exemption. Yet, in spite of all these changes to the tax code, the income tax remains highly progressive.

Just how progressive is it? According to the most-recently released IRS data, in tax year 2022, the top one percent of taxpayers (in terms of AGI) paid 40.4 percent of all federal income taxes. The top five percent of taxpayers paid 61 percent. The top 10 percent of taxpayers paid 72 percent. The top 25 percent of taxpayers paid 87.2 percent. And the top 50 percent of taxpayers paid a whopping 97 percent of all the federal income taxes. The top one percent of taxpayers paid more income taxes than the bottom 90 percent.

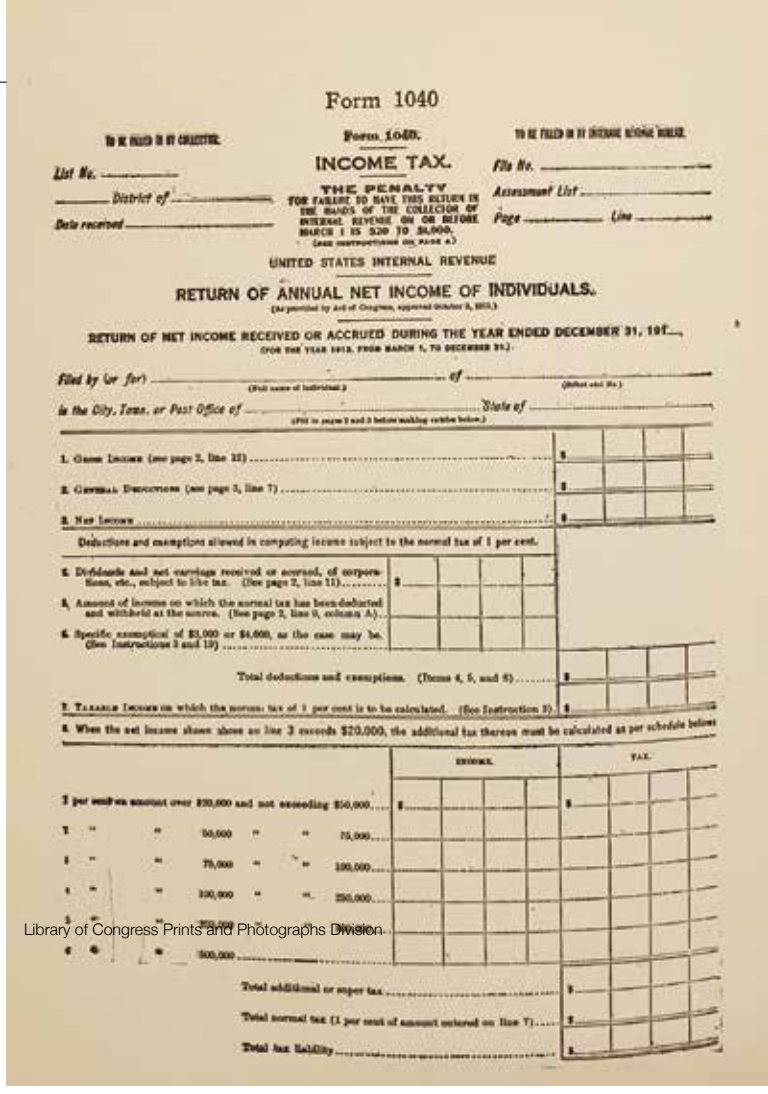
But even this does not tell the whole story. There are two other factors that ensure that the income tax is even more progressive than it appears: welfare payments and refundable tax credits.

First, welfare payments are not counted as income. According to the IRS, "payments made under social benefit programs for promotion of general welfare are excludable from gross income under a concept known as the general welfare

doctrine." This means that although the tax code defines gross income as "all income from whatever source derived," that does not include government welfare payments from Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or non-cash government welfare programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Women, Infants, and Children.

Second, refundable tax credits are not counted as income. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of the amount of income tax owed. It may reduce the tax owed to zero, but if there is no taxable income to begin with, then no credit can be taken. However, with a refundable tax credit, like the Earned Income Tax Credit or the American Opportunity Tax Credit, one can still get the credit even without having any tax liability. Because the IRS treats a refundable tax credit as a payment from the taxpayer like federal income tax withheld or estimated tax payments, this results in the "taxpayer" receiving a "refund" of money that he never paid in. But, like welfare payments, this extra income is not included in gross income. So, whether through a welfare payment or a refundable tax credit, the result is the same: a lower taxable income means a lower tax liability.

Progressive income taxes punish success, discourage productivity, incentivize tax avoidance, foster resentment, and, of course, burden the 50 percent of Americans who actually pay income taxes. Some conservatives and libertarians have suggested that the solution is to move to a flat tax. There are three major problems with this. First, the flat tax is not flat. Because of its "generous exemption," it is highly progressive. Second, it is always billed as "revenue neutral," which means that the federal government would still be funded at the same obscene level that it is now. And third, the flat tax is still an income tax. As Old Right stalwart Frank Chodorov (1887-1966) explained in his book *The Income Tax: Root of All Evil* (1954), the income tax means that the state says to its citizens, "Your earnings are not exclusively your own; we have a claim on them, and our claim precedes yours; we will allow you to keep some of it, because we recognize your need, not your right; but whatever we grant you for yourself is for us to decide."


Form 1040

Form 1040.

INCOME TAX.

THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO HAVE THIS RETURN IN THE HANDS OF THE COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 IS $20 TO $1,000.

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE

RETURN OF ANNUAL NET INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS.

RETURN OF NET INCOME RECEIVED OR ACCRUED DURING THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 191_.

Filed by (or for) _____ of _____

In the City, Town, or Post Office of _____ State of _____

1. Gross Income (see page 2, line 12) ..... $

2. Deductions (see page 2, line 7) ..... $

3. Net Income ..... $

Deductions and exemptions allowed in computing income subject to the normal tax of 1 per cent.

4. Dividends and net earnings received or accrued, of corporations, etc., subject to like tax. (See page 2, line 11) ..... $

5. Amount of income on which the normal tax has been deducted and withheld at the source. (See page 2, line 6, column A) ..... $

6. Specific exemption of $3,000 or $4,000, as the case may be. (See Instructions 3 and 10) ..... $

Total deductions and exemptions. (Items 4, 5, and 6) ..... $

7. Taxable Income on which the normal tax of 1 per cent is to be calculated. (See Instruction 3) ..... $

8. When the net income shown above on line 3 exceeds $20,000, the additional tax thereon must be calculated as per schedule below

	INCOME.	TAX.
2 per centum amount over $20,000 and not exceeding $50,000	$	$
3 " " 50,000 " " 75,000		
4 " " 75,000 " " 100,000		
5 " " 100,000 " " 250,000		
6 " " 250,000 " " 500,000		
7 " " 500,000		

Total additional or super tax ..... $

Total normal tax (1 per cent of amount entered on line 7) ..... $

Total tax liability ..... $

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

First IRS form 1040, from 1913

Americans Are Quadruple-taxed

It's not just the progressive tax brackets that punish "the rich" and favor "the poor." Americans are actually quadruple-taxed on their income. In addition to the federal income tax, there are the state income tax and the Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes. And on top of these taxes on income, Americans have to pay a host of others as well.

The Social Security payroll tax is a federal tax of 12.4 percent (split equally between employer and employee) on the first $184,500 of employee income — the same income that is used to assess federal income tax. And according to the Social Security Administration:

> Some people who get Social Security must pay federal income taxes on their benefits. But, no one pays taxes on more than 85 percent of their Social Security benefits.
>
> You must pay taxes on your benefits if you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your "combined income" exceeds $25,000. If you file a joint return, you must pay taxes if you and your spouse have "combined income" of more than $32,000. If you are married and file a separate return, you probably will have to pay taxes on your benefits.

Progressive income taxes punish success, discourage productivity, incentivize tax avoidance, foster resentment, and, of course, burden the 50 percent of Americans who actually pay income taxes.

16th Amendmer
The Congress shall have power to lay and
lect taxes on incomes, from whatever so
d, without apportionment amon
tates, and withou
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The Medicare payroll tax is a federal tax of 2.9 percent (split equally between employer and employee) on every dollar of income — the same income that is used to assess Social Security tax and federal income tax. There is also an additional 0.9-percent Medicare tax on the pay of those earning above the threshold of $200,000 ($250,000 for married couples). This increases the employee share (the employer share is not affected) of the Medicare tax (currently 1.45 percent) to 2.35 percent on that portion of income that is over the threshold. There is also a new 3.8-percent Medicare tax on certain investment income.

Self-employed persons pay the full 15.3-percent combined Social Security and Medicare tax, but receive both a reduction in their net earnings from self-employment and a tax deduction equal to 50 percent of the amount of tax they paid.

Every state except Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming has an income tax. New Hampshire and Tennessee only tax residents on income from dividends and investments, not wages. The same income is taxed in 41 states upon which residents of these states already pay federal income tax, Social Security tax, and Medicare tax. It is no surprise that the states of California, Hawaii, New Jersey, and New York have tax rates exceeding 10 percent.

Other Taxes

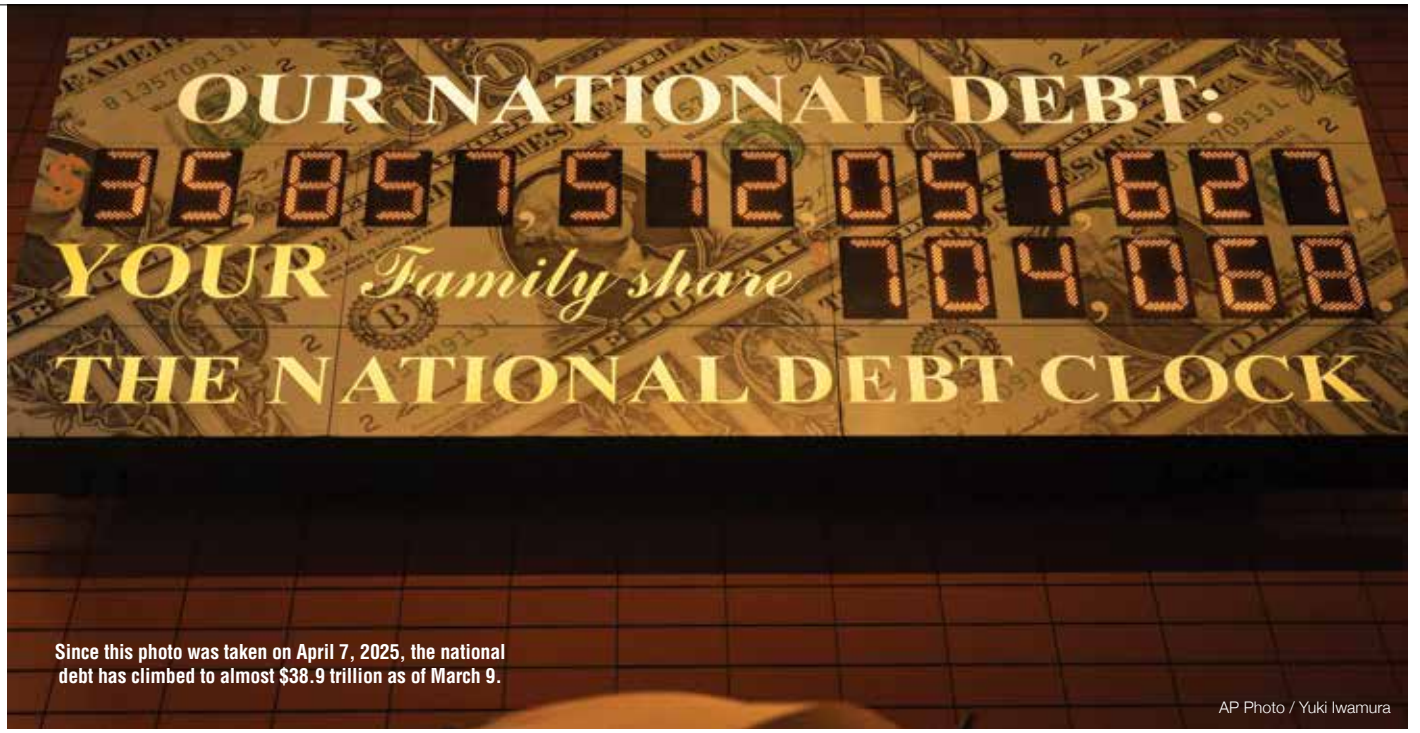
In addition to taxes imposed on income by the federal and state governments, there is a variety of other taxes collected on the federal, state, and local levels.

The federal government collects excise taxes on airline tickets, fuel, tires, alcohol, tobacco, firearms, ammunition, and indoor tanning services. Every state also has its own taxes on fuel, tobacco, and alcohol. A federal unemployment tax of six percent is imposed on employers on the first $7,000 of each employee's taxable wages during a calendar year. Each state likewise assesses employers an unemployment tax (less a credit against their federal tax liability). State unemployment taxes and wage bases are generally higher than the federal rate and base. Although unemployment taxes are generally paid by employers and not employees (some states also require employees to pay), they raise the cost of doing business, which results in lower wages for workers and higher prices for consumers. The same goes for the federal corporate income tax and the state corporate income tax imposed by 44 states. And let's not forget the tariffs collected by the federal government on imported goods. These are paid by American importers, who directly pay the tariffs, and American consumers, who indirectly pay via higher prices for the imported goods.

Every state except Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire, and Oregon has a sales tax. These are collected on the sale of most goods and services, though most foods are exempt. The rates range from a high of 7.25 percent in California to a low of 2.99 percent in Colorado. In 38 states, there is a local option sales tax added on top of the state sales tax. Depending on the state, county, or city, there might be occupancy taxes on hotel rooms. Car rentals are subject to airport concession recovery fees, county rental taxes, state government surcharges, and consumer facility fees. And all of these taxes are in addition to the state and local sales tax that is also imposed on hotel rooms and rental cars.

Every state has some form of property tax, which is usually collected by local governments or government entities on the assessed value of real, and sometimes personal, property. They are the primary tool for financing local governments. They also generally include school-system taxes regardless of whether one has, or has ever had, children in a local public school. Property taxes amount to rent you pay to the government to live in your own house. They do not correspond with the value of "services" received by the property owner from the local government.

It is not enough to reform or simplify the tax code. American taxpayers need tax relief, not tax reform; they need tax suspension, not tax simplification.



Since this photo was taken on April 7, 2025, the national debt has climbed to almost $38.9 trillion as of March 9.

AP Photo / Yuki Iwamura

Americans are not only taxed to death; they are also taxed *after* their death. The Revenue Act of 1862 included a tax on bequests to ancestors, lineal descendants, siblings, and charities. At the end of the 19th century, social reformers and progressives advocated taxes on the wealthy to make sure they were paying their "fair share." The modern estate tax began with the Revenue Act of 1916. It taxed the transfer of wealth from an estate to its beneficiaries after an exemption of $50,000. A gift tax was added in 1924, repealed in 1926, and reintroduced in 1932. The amount of the exemption and the tax rates varied over the years, and the estate tax was temporarily repealed in 2010. For tax year 2026, the exemption amount is $15 million and the maximum rate is 40 percent. In addition, 12 states and the District of Columbia impose their own state-level estate taxes.

Solutions

It is not enough to reform or simplify the tax code. American taxpayers need tax relief, not tax reform; they need tax suspension, not tax simplification. Because Americans are quadruple-taxed on their income and saddled with myriad other taxes by every level of government in addition to the income tax, taxes of every kind need to be drastically slashed.

Why should any American have to pay 40, 30, 20, or even 10 percent of his income to the federal government (on top of what is paid to state and local governments), especially since the case can easily be made that more than 90 percent of federal spending is wasted on bureaucrats and boondoggles, or is patently unconstitutional, like welfare, foreign aid, farm subsidies, Pell grants, Medicare, Medicaid, the drug war, unemployment benefits, job training, housing vouchers, food stamps, SSI, school lunches, scientific and medical research grants, space exploration, Head Start, art and culture subsidies, and foreign military adventures?

Which taxes should be slashed first? Any and all of them. Every tax takes a portion of our wealth and spends it in ways that we would not spend it ourselves. While economists debate about which tax is the most or the least fair, which tax has the greatest or the fewest economic distortions, and which tax is the most or the least harmful to investment and economic growth, Americans continue to labor under an onerous tax burden. Therefore, the reduction or elimination of any tax, the decrease in any tax rate, or the increase in any deduction or credit for any reason by any level of government is always good for American taxpayers because the result is that they get to keep more of their money in their pockets and out of the hands of Uncle Sam. But won't tax cuts benefit "the rich"? Of course they will. It is "the rich" who actually pay the bulk of the income taxes. As was pointed out earlier, the top 50 percent of taxpayers paid 97 percent of all the federal income taxes in 2022.

The actual burden on Americans is even worse, since the cost of government is not limited to what government actually collects in tax revenues, but in actuality is what government spends. The federal government now spends around $7 trillion a year. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the budget deficit for fiscal year 2025 totaled $1.8 trillion. This is why the national debt is now approaching $40 trillion. Americans ultimately have to pay for government spending one way or another — either via taxes or through inflation when the debt is monetized. It is the actual cost of government that must be cut, which would happen if Congress did not vote for any spending that was not authorized by the Constitution. It really is that simple. The problem is that Congress has an insatiable desire to spend money. No new plan needs to be written by some think tank to guide members of Congress to reduce or eliminate spending on wasteful or unnecessary government programs. The plan that was written more than 235 years ago is sufficient; Congress just needs to do more than give the Constitution lip service.

Taxes are not the price we pay for civilized society, as Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes famously claimed in a dissenting opinion in 1927. They are the price we pay for a welfare/warfare state. ■

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"This is a republic, not a democracy — Let's keep it that way!"

Arizonan Unravels ASU's Standout in Epstein Files

Adobe Stock / Rosemarie Mosteller

by Rebecca Terrell

In the deluge of Jeffrey Epstein's unsealed files, few institutions stand out more starkly than Arizona State University (ASU). Kristen Williamson can tell you why. A former accountant and litigation consultant turned independent researcher, since 2018 she's been exposing ASU's transformation into a hub for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-backed technocracy, biowarfare, genetic engineering, and control of the water supply. Her work, chronicled at KristenWilliamson.Substack.com, exemplifies how a single determined citizen can pierce the veil of elite secrecy.

Williamson first looked into ASU's education programs, which stood out to her as tailored for a technocratic biosurveillance state, as she told *The New American* in a recent interview. Her research quickly led to ASU President Michael Crow, who founded the university's Biodesign Institute and nanotechnology programs. Crow has been at that helm since 2002, having begun his career at Columbia University, the cradle of technocracy. He also serves as chairman and longtime trustee of In-Q-Tel, the CIA's nonprofit venture-capital arm, established in 1999 to funnel taxpayer dollars into tech startups. That raised significant red flags for Williamson.

Crow's powerful position earned him a spot on *Fortune's* list of the top 50 influential world leaders in 2019, and Williamson calls him Arizona's "de facto governor." Her Substack posts are packed with hyperlinks to primary sources that reveal In-Q-Tel's biotech portfolio. Investments include Aeluma (genome sequencing), GRAIL (blood analysis), and Metabiota (pandemic modeling and biolab funding). Her documentation links these investments to Hunter Biden's investment and advisory firm Rosemont Seneca Partners, and thereby potentially to gain-of-function research.

The smoking gun can be found on ASU's Complex Adaptive Systems Initiative website, in an archive of 20-plus years' worth of slide presentations composed by George Poste, an ASU professor and longtime Crow collaborator. In a 2002 *Phoenix New Times* interview, Poste quipped that gene therapy's "stealth viral vectors," which bypass natural immunity, amounted to a "perfect biological weapon." One slide shows plans for "AI synthetic bio-weapons" and "gene drives" that could "destabilize the world."

Crow and Poste also oversaw Pacific Eclipse, a December 2019 tabletop exercise that simulated Covid disruptions and lockdowns with eerie precision a mere nine days before President Donald Trump's China travel ban. "How did these Arizona insiders know more than the president?" Williamson asks. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has called Covid a "CIA biodefense operation"; Williamson's evidence suggests ASU was its nerve center.

Today, Crow is building a "biotech corridor" via ASU's 2022 Discovery Oasis partnership with the Mayo Clinic. Meanwhile, Poste advises the Arizona Bioindustry Association, pushing the CRISPR gene-editing tool and gene therapies, while George Church, an Epstein-funded genomicist, serves with Poste on the advisory board of INanoBio, a genome sequencer brimming with Department of Defense contracts.

Their influence extends beyond pandemics, however. Crow has launched ASU's Arizona Water Innovation Initiative with $40 million in state funds, positioning himself as steward of the Colorado River's fate. Partners include Israeli firm IDE Technologies for desalination — tech potentially laced with graphene oxide, a neurotoxin. In the realm of elections, Williamson believes In-Q-Tel may be tied to election irregularities in Arizona, through investments in the Spanish company Scytl.

"They're not just predicting crises," Williamson notes. "They're engineering them." The impact of her whistleblowing has been profound. She has armed journalists, lawmakers, and the public with irrefutable documentation. Her 2023 and 2025 interviews with *The New American's* Alex Newman went viral, and influencer Mike Benz and others now echo her. In Arizona, she is sparking calls for probes into Crow, Poste, and ASU.

What can you do? Contact Arizona Republicans Andy Biggs and Paul Gosar, and demand federal investigations by intelligence committees. By adding your voice to Williamson's, you may help expose this dangerous empire. ■

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

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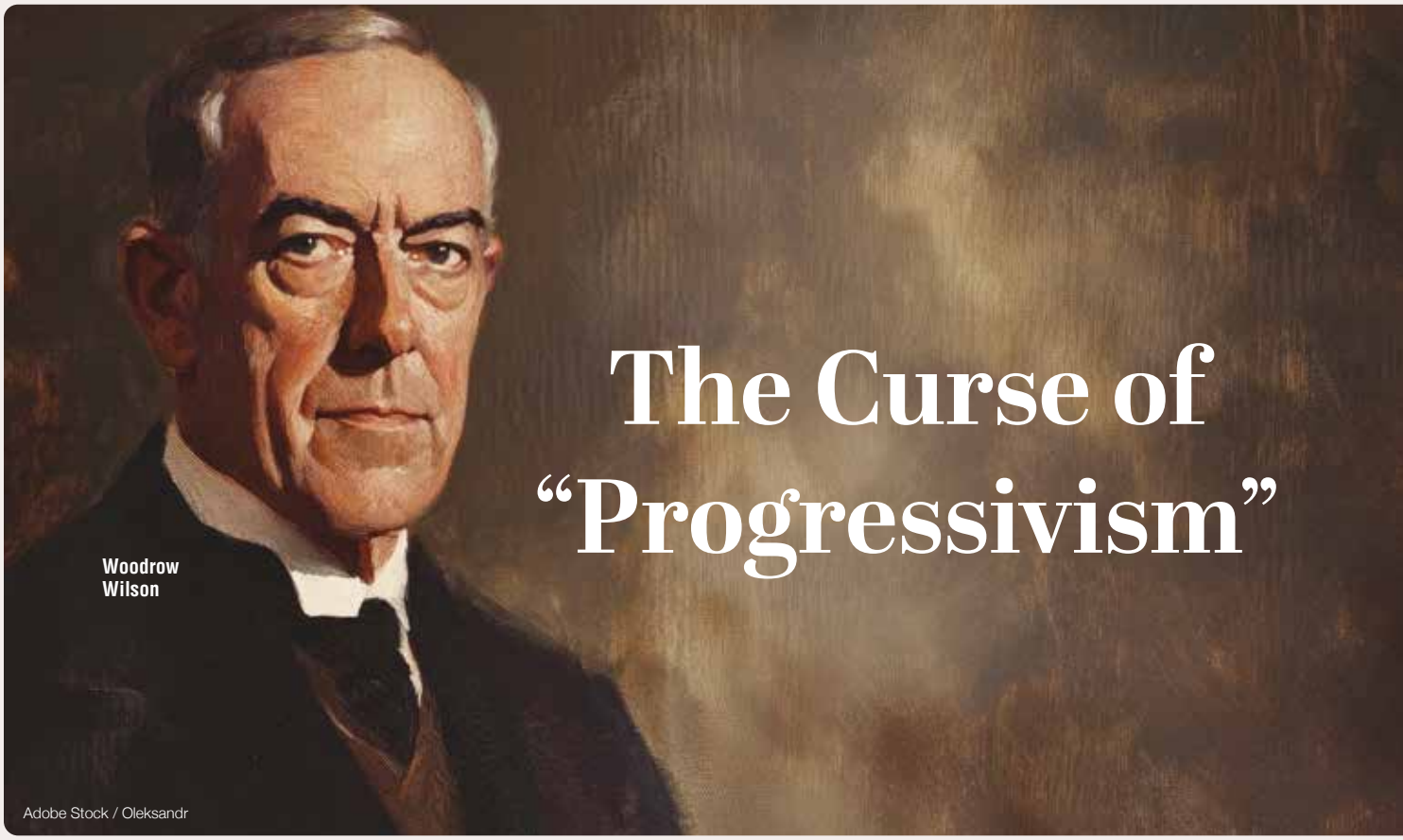

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The Curse of "Progressivism"

AT A GLANCE

- Progressivism, a Big Government movement, is very closely allied to socialism.
- Teddy Roosevelt was the first progressive president.
- Woodrow Wilson enacted much of the progressives' agenda.
- Progressivism continued after World War I with Herbert Hoover.

by Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo

In his book *The Progressive Era*, Murray N. Rothbard makes the case that government policies during "the progressive period" (roughly the mid-1890s to the mid-1920s) should be considered as the origin of the "welfare-warfare state" in America. American society went from "a roughly free and *laissez-faire* society ... when the economy was free, taxes were low [there was no income tax], persons were free in their daily lives, and the government was noninterventionist at home and abroad," to "a welfare-warfare imperial State, where people's daily lives were controlled and regulated to a massive degree."

In *Progressivism: A Primer on the Idea Destroying America*, legal scholar James Ostrowski explains how progressivism was the result of a generations-long assault on "historical liberalism," the system of individual freedom, relatively free markets and free societies, and limited constitutional government. In its place was to be a "quasi-religious belief in state action." It is "quasi-religious," writes Ostrowski, because "the progressive offers no plausible argument for his positions" and "does not and cannot proffer empirical data to support his view. And no amount of contrary evidence will change his mind."

Ostrowski would undoubtedly agree with the basic premise of Thomas Sowell's book *The Vision of the Anointed*. Sowell shows how, with myriad public policies regarding crime, education, economics, and more, the "progressive" political Left routinely ignores *decades* of experience, research, and facts that prove the failures of their Big Government policies. "For this reason, some people are calling progressivism a mental illness," he writes.

That is going a little too far. Socialism has been a human and societal catastrophe wherever it has existed, yet it always has benefited the ruling class while impoverishing everyone else. It wouldn't exist if *someone* did not benefit from it — usually the people with the most guns. The same can be said for socialism's close cousin (or identical twin), progressivism.

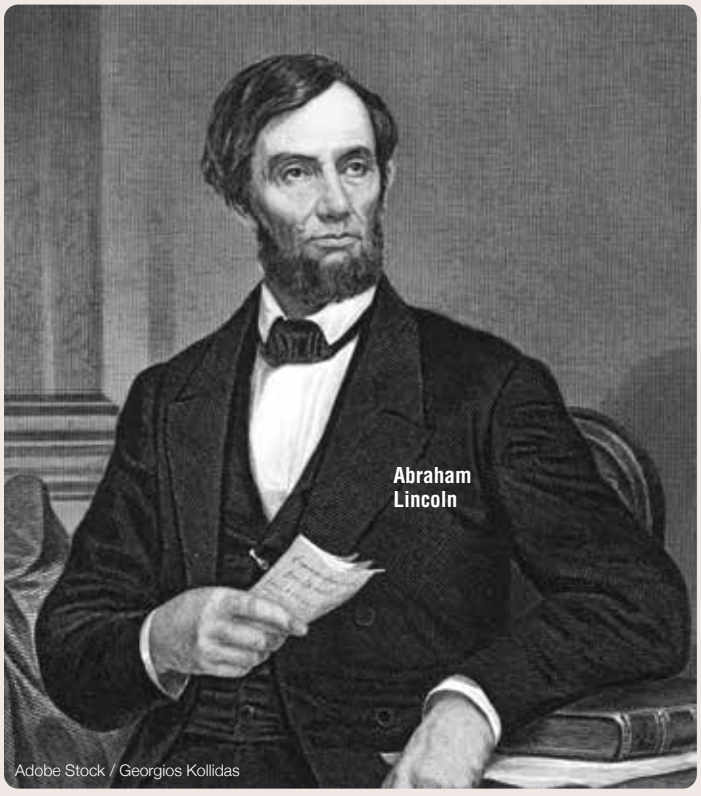
Progressivism didn't just appear in the mid-1890s, but was the result of a century-long ideological battle. As evidence of

Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo is a retired economics professor and the author or co-author of 18 books, including The Real Lincoln, Hamilton's Curse, The Problem With Socialism, How Capitalism Saved America, *and* The Politically Incorrect Guide to Economics.

Perhaps worst of all, Lincoln's creation of a gigantic, Leviathan-sized warfare state created the impression that government could be a "problem solver" if only enough coercion and violence are applied.

this, Ostrowski includes such historical figures as Alexander Hamilton and Abraham Lincoln in his "rogues gallery of progressives." Indeed, Hamilton as treasury secretary badgered George Washington to create a government of "more energy." He denounced the newly ratified Constitution as "a frail and worthless fabric" because it limited government too much; invented the insidious idea of "implied powers" in the Constitution during his famous debate with Thomas Jefferson over the constitutionality of a national bank run by politicians out of the national capital; absurdly argued that the Commerce Clause of the Constitution gives the federal government authority to regulate *all* commerce; championed European-style "mercantilism" in the form of what we today call "corporate welfare" for politically connected corporations; favored the corporate welfare of protectionist tariffs and a national bank modeled after the Bank of England; and called for a large national debt, which he called a "blessing" (the wealthy would own most of the government bonds, the Machiavellian Hamilton argued, and would become a lobbying force for higher taxes with which to pay off the principal and interest on their government bonds). He talked Washington into sending 15,000 militiamen into Pennsylvania to apprehend the whiskey tax protesters and urged the president to hang all of the leaders (Washington pardoned all of them). He invented the doctrine of "resultant powers," an insidious idea that if the government did something that was unconstitutional, the fact that it did so makes that thing *de facto* constitutional! In the Hamiltonian world, anything government does is constitutional; the Constitution is nothing more than a rubber stamp on its actions.

In his renowned book *Lincoln the Man*, Edgar Lee Masters (Clarence Darrow's law partner and a famous playwright) called Lincoln "the political son of Alexander Hamilton." And so he was. Lincoln destroyed the voluntary Union of the Founding Fathers and replaced it with a coerced Union held together by the massive bloodshed of total war. He all but destroyed the uniquely American system of federalism by centralizing almost all political power in Washington, D.C., by eliminating the rights of secession and nullification. Lincoln was a statist on economics, introduced the first income tax (though it ended after the war), raised tariffs 10 times, commenced tax-funded



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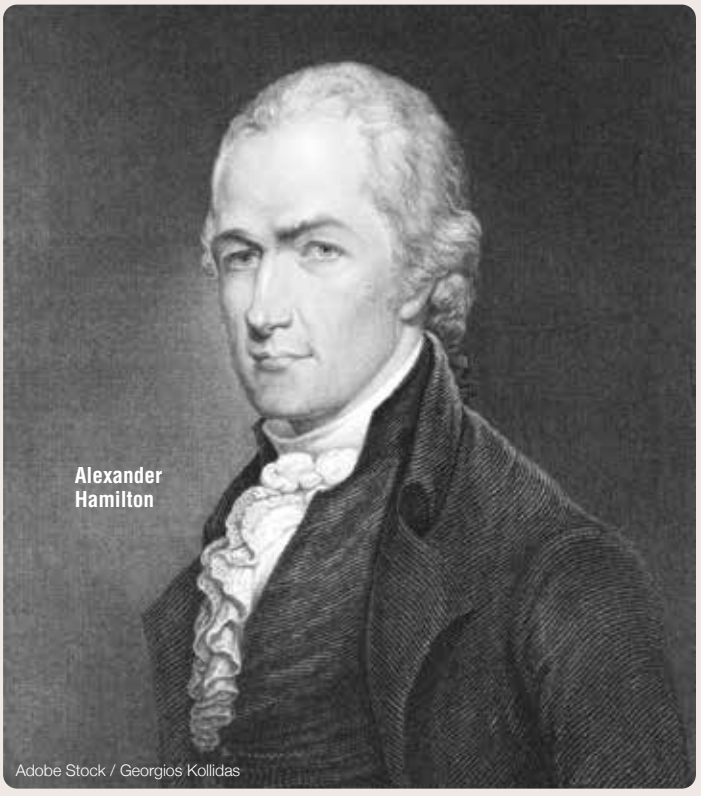

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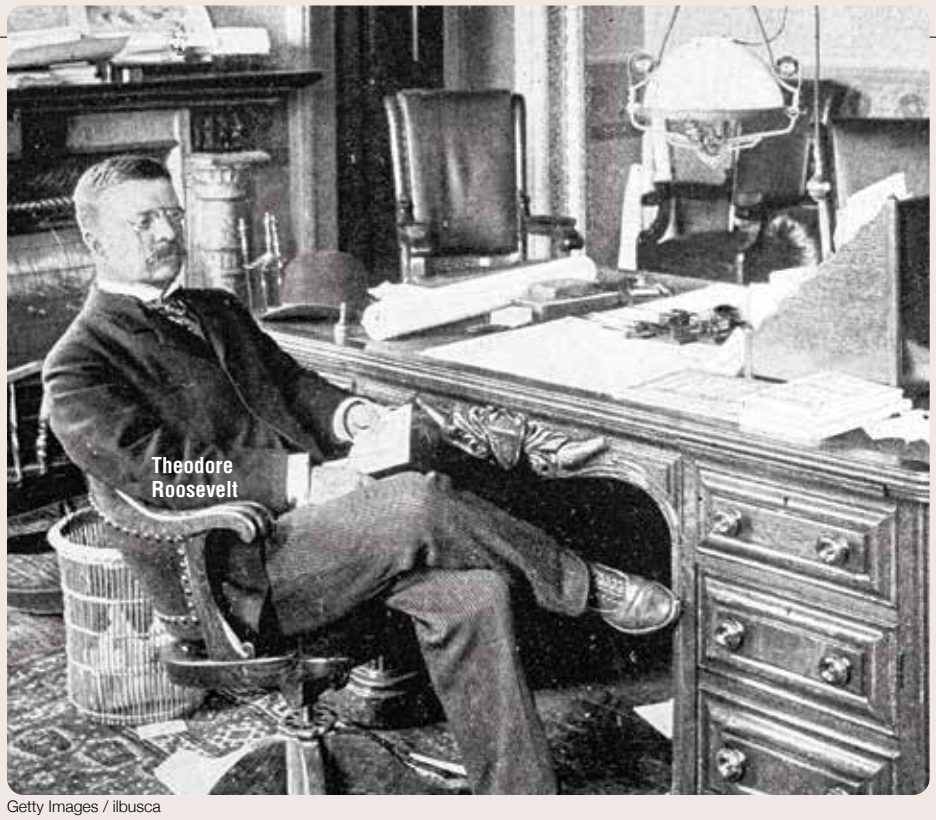

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railroad industry subsidies, signed into law the nationalization of the money supply with his National Currency and Legal Tender Acts, suspended the writ of habeas corpus and imprisoned tens of thousands of Northern political dissenters during the war, shut down more than 300 opposition newspapers in the North, waged total war on the civilian population of the South, and sold the slaves that his wife inherited from her wealthy Kentucky plantation-owning family. He signed the first federal military conscription law, ordered the execution of deserters, and ordered the shooting of hundreds of draft protesters during the New York City draft riots in July 1863. He deported his top congressional critic, Democrat Clement Vallandigham of Ohio.

Perhaps worst of all, Lincoln's creation of a gigantic, Leviathan-sized warfare state created the impression that government could be a "problem solver" if only enough coercion and violence were applied, as Jeffrey Hummel concluded in *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men*. All of this is why modern-day progressive academics have praised "the Lincoln dictatorship," claiming it to somehow have been a "good" dictatorship because it established so many "good" precedents of ignoring the constitutional limits on government. It is why progressive President Theodore Roosevelt wrote in his autobiography that in "the days of Abraham Lincoln" the Republican Party was founded "as the radical progressive party of the Nation." Lincoln was in fact America's first progressive president.

Progressive historian James McPherson wrote an entire book about how Lincoln's domestic policies created "a blueprint for modern America"; a progressive blueprint, that is, created by a widely acknowledged elected dictator, every progressive politician's ideal.

John C. Calhoun presciently predicted the development of progressivism decades before the word was even invented. (The word implies, by the way, that if you oppose or criticize the ideas of a progressive you must be against progress! It is progressives who perverted the word "liberal" from its original meaning — as being in favor of peace, free markets, civil society, constitutionalism, and limited government — to the exact opposite.)

In his 1850 treatise *A Disquisition on Government*, Calhoun wrote that in a democracy there will inevitably be two classes of people: net taxpayers and net tax consumers. The former pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits from government (the productive class), whereas the latter (government bureaucrats, politicians, special interest groups) receive more from the government than they pay in taxes (the parasitic class). Because of this, said Calhoun, a mere written constitution would not be sufficient to contain the Leviathan state. Something else, such as state nullification, would be needed. According to Calhoun:

> The party in power — whichever party — will be opposed to the constitutional restrictions intended to limit it. As the major and dominant party, they will have no need of these restrictions. The ballot box ... would be ample protection to them. They would regard the limitations as unnecessary and improper restraints, and endeavor to elude them, with a view of increasing their power and influence.
>
> The minor, weaker party on the other hand, will make its strict construction arguments for actually enforcing the Constitution, but the party in favor of the restrictions will inevitably be overpowered. It is folly to believe that the party in power and in possession of the ballot box and the physical force of the country could be successfully resisted by an appeal to reason, truth, justice, or the obligations imposed by the Constitution. The end of the contest will be the subversion of the Constitution.

In essence, it was the victory of the political parasitic class over the productive class in a century-long ideological debate that made the Progressive Era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries possible through decades of subversion of the constitutional limits on government. Progressive icon Woodrow Wilson wrote in *Congressional Government* that one good result of the Civil War was that the federal government, through its Supreme Court, finally became the sole arbiter of the limits on its own powers. This is how America was turned into a hyper-interventionist, imperialistic, mostly constitution-less welfare-warfare state.

Progressives and Their "Era"

The year 1896 was a momentous turning point in American history, for the postwar Democratic Party, which had been the party of free trade, hard money, personal liberty, and limited constitutional government, was captured by what Rothbard called the "in-

U.S. Federal Reserve building

Getty Images / uschools

flationist, statist forces of William Jennings Bryan." From that point on, there was the statist Republican Party, which was essentially the party of crony capitalism and corporate welfare, and the Democratic Party of Bryan, which was even more statist and interventionist. The American welfare-warfare state would soon be born.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first progressive president of the Progressive Era, and he made that very clear. He denounced constitutional limits on government and abhorred the Jeffersonian tradition of decentralized, limited government under the Jeffersonian quip that that government is best which governs least. In the middle of America's Industrial Revolution and a production boom that had caused price *deflation* for the previous three decades, he commenced a harebrained crusade against "monopoly" that ended up crippling some of America's most dynamic, competitive industries. His railroad-industry regulators were soon politically "captured" by the railroad industry itself, with the result being government-enforced price fixing that made the industry *more* monopolistic, not less. The same result came from the creation of the Food and Drug Administration. Food and drug corporations embraced the regulation of their industries because they knew that it would disadvantage their smaller competitors and prevent others from entering the industry in the first place. More regulation, more monopoly power.

Roosevelt's "trust busting" punished the most efficient company in America, Standard Oil, for the "crime" of tremendously expanding production, inventing myriad new products, and *dropping* prices for 46 years by breaking the company up into several appendages, all to the benefit of Standard Oil's less-efficient competitors at the expense of the hapless American consumers.

In the name of "conservation," Roosevelt reversed the century-long trend of privatization of (supposedly) government-owned land by nationalizing more than 400 million acres under the absurd theory that politicians and bureaucrats who have no personal financial stake in the land will manage it better than those who do. Grazing lands were used as a political pork barrel whereby federal politicians leased the lands at far-below-market rates to politically connected ranchers — in return for campaign contributions, of course. Timber corporations were treated in the same way. This resulted in massive overgrazing by ranchers that led to desertification in parts of the American West, and the denuding of forests from the practice of "clear cutting" vast stretches of forest land and not replanting, as is routinely done on private forest land.

Roosevelt's Federal Bureau of Reclamation was another political football. It sold water cheaply in whatever way would solicit the most votes and campaign contributions to Roosevelt and his party, creating a colossal waste of water resources. This regulatory monster is a source of perpetual conflict over water to this day.

Theodore Roosevelt was an unhinged warmonger who intervened militarily in numerous countries for reasons having nothing to do with defending anyone or anything in America. He publicly denounced "the menace of peace" and was subsequently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He ordered or supported the invasion of Cuba, Hawaii, Venezuela, China, the Philippines, Panama, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Canada, and Spain. American intervention during the 1899-1902 Philippine Insurrection alone caused the deaths of at least 200,000 Filipinos. All of this was done for the purpose of conquest, subjugation, and plunder of foreign countries, not national defense. America was no longer a constitutional republic, but an empire. Roosevelt casually dismissed men who criticized this, such as Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie, and President Grover Cleveland, as "men of a bygone era."

The Worst President in American History?

Roosevelt's secretary of war, William Howard Taft, was his hand-picked successor and served as president for the next four years. He continued Rooseveltian military adventurism in Latin America, helping to further cement into place the U.S. government's imperialist credentials. He was followed by uber-progressive Woodrow Wilson, whose reelection campaign slogan was "He Kept Us Out of War." Three months after his second inauguration day, he asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany, which posed no threat to America or Americans. The United States entered World War I in 1917, and Wilson's war to supposedly "make the world safe for democracy" and "end all wars" resulted in 116,516 Americans dead and

another 320,000 wounded, physically and mentally.

Although Wilson claimed that all of this death and destruction was justified by saving democracy from the Germans, the fact is that Germany at the time had freedom of the press, including criticism of the Kaiser; a broader voting franchise than that of England (the prime instigator of war with Germany); and due process. The Kaiser had fewer executive powers than Wilson.

With typical progressive quasi-religious language, Wilson played God when, following World War I, he once declared that "there will come sometime ... another struggle in which, not a few hundred thousand fine men from America will have to die, but ... many millions ... to accomplish the final freedom of the peoples of the world." One wonders what the authors of the U.S. Constitution would think of his admonition that a legitimate role of government was to conscript millions of Americans in a war that would cost millions of lives for the supposed benefit of all *other* countries of the world. Presumably, neither Wilson nor members of his family were intended to be among the millions of Americans who "will have to die."

Wilson bribed the Russian Provisional Government with American tax dollars to enter World War I, with the result being some 400,000 dead Russians. The Bolsheviks were the only antiwar party in Russia at the time, and the horrific death toll gave them such a boost that Lenin once said that "Our revolution was born of the war." Well done, Woodrow.

Wilson imposed "war socialism" on America by nationalizing numerous industries. His National Defense Act gave him the power to order corporations to produce military products under threat of felony prosecution. The Army Appropriations Act gave him power to seize private property, Soviet style. The government took over the railroad industry under this act. His War Industries Board engaged in full-fledged central planning of the entire economy, again Soviet style.

Disposal of liquor during Prohibition

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Military conscription was imposed along with an espionage act that included a 20-year prison sentence for "interfering" with conscription, which meant criticizing it. All telephone and telegraph communication was censored, and thousands were imprisoned for criticizing the war. And to think that Woodrow Wilson accused *the Germans* of threatening freedom and democracy in the world!

The federal income tax, a cornerstone of Wilson's 1912 "New Freedom" agenda, was adopted along with the Federal Reserve and the 17th Amendment that took the election of U.S. senators out of the hands of state legislatures and replaced it with a popular vote, all in the year 1913. Without the Fed and the income tax, it isn't likely that the United States would have been able to enter the war at all.

The adoption of the income tax was the greatest assault on private property in American history. As explained by Frank Chodorov in *The Income Tax: Root of All Evil*, what the government was saying to the citizens is this:

> Your earnings are not exclusively your own; we have a claim on them, and our claim precedes yours; we will allow you to keep some of it, because we recognize your need, not your right; but whatever we grant you for yourself is for us to decide.... The amount of your earnings that you

Many progressives at the time were "postmillennialists" who believed that the state had to be used as their instrument with which to eradicate sin in the world and create a thousand-year Kingdom of God on Earth to make way for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

> may retain for yourself is determined by the needs of government, and you have nothing to say about it.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlaws indentured servitude, but that was simply ignored by Wilson and the Supreme Court regarding conscription. It was Lincoln who established the false notion that the Constitution may be ignored during wartime for a "higher purpose" (such as making the entire world "safe for democracy").

As for the 17th Amendment, until that point if a senator voted against the wishes and well-being of the people of his home state, he could be recalled immediately and replaced by the state legislature. Seven senators were recalled in the 1830s during Andrew Jackson's presidency, when they promised to support Jackson in his crusade to defund the precursor of the Fed, the Second Bank of the United States, and then did the opposite upon reaching Washington. Ever since the 17th Amendment was ratified, special-interest money has trumped the will of the people of the states when it comes to senatorial voting. A newly elected senator can spend the next six years raising "campaign contributions" from special-interest groups to finance his reelection campaign. The progressives promised that the 17th Amendment would enhance democracy. Instead, it enhanced corruption and bribery.

And, of course, there was the disaster of alcohol prohibition that notoriously caused a great spike in violent crime with the takeover of much of the alcoholic beverage industry by organized crime. Progressives had long been lobbying for prohibition, and with it the progressive agenda was indeed in full bloom.

Many progressives at the time were "postmillennialists" who believed that the state had to be used as their instrument with which to eradicate sin in the world and create a thousand-year Kingdom of God on Earth to make way for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. (They apparently assumed that God was not really God Almighty, but needed the assistance of political activists in the progressive movement.) For them, three major sins to be eradicated were alcohol consumption, Catholicism (most of the leading intellectual lights of progressivism were of New England Puritan Protestant descent), and doing anything on Sundays other than going to church and reading the Bible. They sought to corral all American children into public schools so that the children of all the newer Catholic and Lutheran immigrants from Europe could be turned into good little Protestants — and progressives — like themselves.

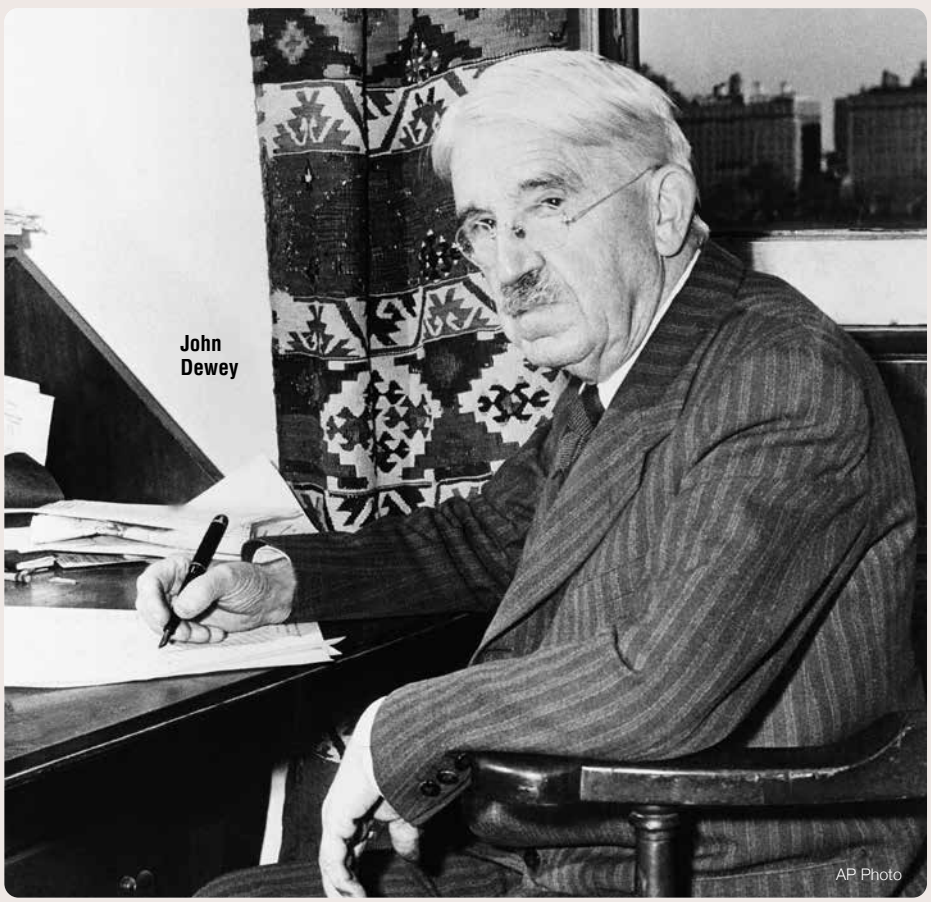
The Heyday of Progressivism

In *The Progressive Era*, Rothbard wrote that World War I "brought the fulfillment of all these progressive trends. Militarism, conscription, massive intervention at home and abroad, a collectivized war economy, all came about during the war and created a mighty cartelized system that most of its leaders spent the rest of their lives trying to recreate."

The leading progressive intellectual of the day was John Dewey, and the leading progressive publication was *The New Republic* magazine. Dewey claimed to be a pacifist, but was a powerful and influential supporter of Wilson's war. To Dewey, all of the government intervention, censorship, and socialist central planning during the war was a model of what life in America should be like in peacetime. He mouthed the old nonsensical socialist slogan that "we are beginning to produce for use, not for sale" (it is hard to sell something that is useless to others, by the way!), and cheerfully announced that war socialism had proved that capitalism was on the way out.

The second-most influential progressive "intellectual" was Walter Lippmann, who was the loudest supporter of the war but secured a draft exemption for himself by claiming that his father was dying and his mother was alone in the world. His father lived another 10 years. Like Dewey, he wanted to use the example of war socialism to plan peacetime socialism.

Richard T. Ely, who taught at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Wisconsin, was just as influential as Dewey in progressive circles. A lifelong war supporter, he was especially enthusiastic about conscription, which he thought should be used during peace-



John Dewey

AP Photo

Herbert Hoover
Library of Congress

time to conscript an "industrial army" of young people to take orders from government bureaucrats, Hitler Youth style. He was a co-founder of the American Economic Association, the founding document of which announced that the doctrine of *laissez-faire* (i.e., economic freedom) was "unsafe in politics and unsound in morals."

The Progressivism of Herbert Hoover

Like Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover is thought by many to have been a conservative, when in reality he was a hyper-interventionist progressive as president. As historian Joan Hoff Wilson wrote in *Herbert Hoover: Forgotten Progressive*, Hoover as commerce secretary and later as president sought to use government intervention to address perceived problems of too much "destructive competition," too much "lawlessness," too many hours of work, some people making "too much money," and too little labor-union power.

It was lost on Hoover that the big problem with "lawlessness" was that so much of it was caused by Prohibition. His complaining about too much competition was pandering to large corporations like the ones that had employed him as a mining engineer. Consumers never complain about too many choices and too-low prices from competition. Moreover, government-mandated reduction in work hours is a good way to cause a recession.

As commerce secretary, Hoover was a frenetic regulator, interfering in broadcasting, airlines, advertising, oil, electric power, farming, ocean shipping, and much more. As president, he was an even more fervent interventionist. He strong-armed corporations to raise wages during the Great Depression, guaranteeing even higher unemployment. He signed the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which ignited an international trade war that shrunk world trade by two-thirds in three years, exacerbating the Depression. Public-works (aka, make-work jobs) spending accounted for 13 percent of the entire budget, and the tax increases to pay for it all depressed the private sector even further. As Rothbard wrote in *America's Great Depression*, "the range of tax increases was enormous. Many wartime excise taxes were revived, [and] sales taxes were imposed on gasoline, tires, autos, electric energy, malt, toiletries, furs, jewelry, and other articles." The new income tax was also "raised drastically," he added.

It was Hoover who started the business of paying farmers for *not* growing food or raising livestock (to supposedly increase farm incomes by increasing the price of food). All consumers suffered from the subsequent higher food prices during the Depression. Reduced agricultural production also meant reduced agricultural employment, making unemployment during the Depression even more severe.

At the end of his presidency, Hoover began to understand the error of his ways. Major American corporations were calling for even more government intervention, which they hoped to control in a way that would guarantee them profits, as they had with wartime defense contracts. In particular, big business endorsed "The Swope Plan," named after General Electric CEO Gerard Swope. Some corporate executives were even calling for an "economic Mussolini!"

Though Hoover recognized this as economic fascism and would have none of it, the plan would be adopted by Hoover's successor, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It essentially created government-enforced cartels with the National Recovery Act (NRA) and Agricultural Adjustment Act, both of which essentially outlawed price competition. (They were both ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1935). As John T. Flynn explained in *The Roosevelt Myth*:

> [Mussolini] organized each ... industrial group or professional group into a state-supervised trade association. He called it a corporative.... The NRA provided that ... each industry should be organized into a federally supervised trade association. It was not called a corporative. It was called a Code Authority. But it was essentially the same thing.... This was fascism.

Hoover's rejection of this scheme was "his finest hour," wrote Rothbard. With FDR, progressivism became a combination of corporatism, socialism, and fascism. What a curse. ■

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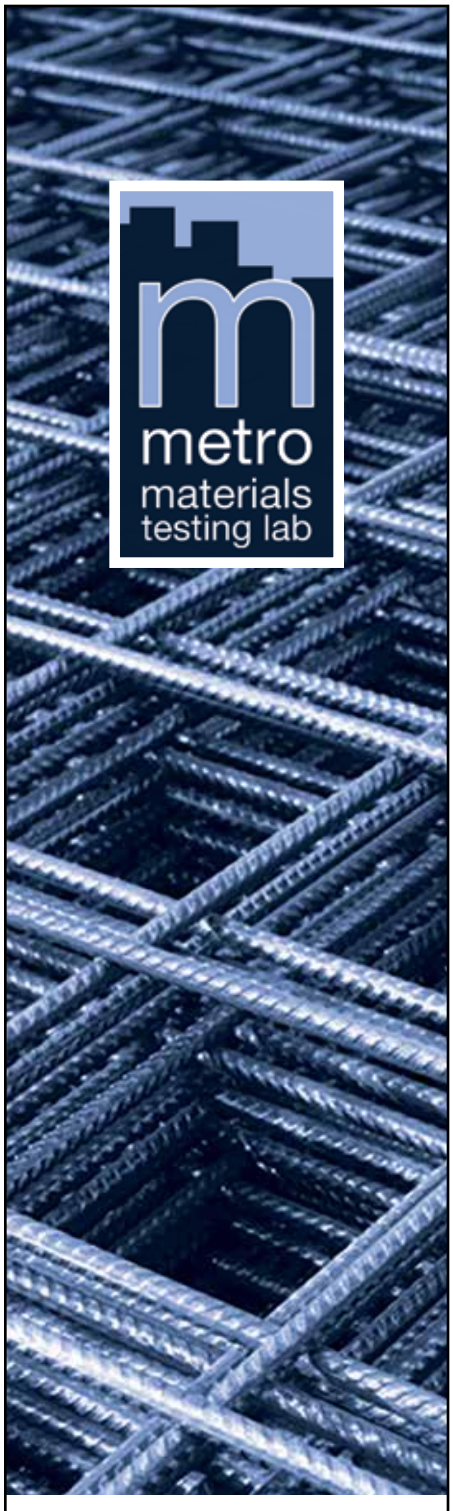

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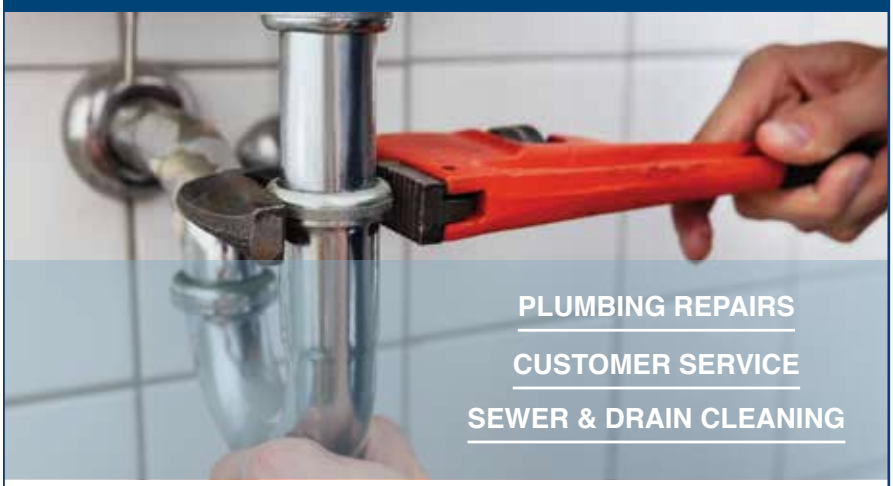

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State Legislators Working to Restore God-given Rights

by D. Michael DeRidder

Federal overreach has relentlessly eroded the God-given and constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms, yet liberty-minded state legislators are seeking to restore the rights the Founders recognized as unalienable. Legislators in Idaho and West Virginia have introduced landmark bills that reaffirm the fundamental God-given right to self-defense and challenge unconstitutional federal restrictions on firearms.

Idaho Self-defense Protections

Idaho's Senate Bill 1298 (SB 1298), the "Stand Your Ground Shield Act," was introduced on February 16 by state Senator Christy Zito (R-Mountain Home), who has earned a cumulative 100-percent score on *The New American's* Freedom Index.

If enacted, SB 1298 would grant immunity from criminal prosecution for anyone who uses justified force under existing self-defense statutes. In the bill's Statement of Purpose, Zito explained that it would "provide strong legal protections for individuals who use force in lawful self-defense, defense of others, or defense of certain places…. As the bill states, a person using justified force 'shall be immune from any criminal prosecution for the use of such force or threat of force.'" The bill would establish a pretrial immunity hearing at which a judge must dismiss charges with prejudice if the defendant makes a *prima facie* showing of justified force.

Zito also notes a common injustice in lawful self-defense cases — when the legal process "becomes the punishment." In an op-ed in the Pocatello Chubbuck Observer, she wrote, "In many cases, self-defense can only be fully resolved at trial — after arrest, charges, attorney fees, months (or years) of court dates, reputational damage, and lost work. Even if someone is completely vindicated, the cost can be crushing." SB 1298 would ensure defendants who are acquitted are reimbursed for all reasonable costs.

The Declaration of Independence affirms that governments are instituted to secure our God-given rights, including life and liberty, and the Second Amendment protects the right to self-defense. Yet without strong legal protections such as those in SB 1298, this fundamental right is often infringed. SB 1298 guarantees that the law will protect law-abiding citizens, not be weaponized against them by activist prosecutors or rogue judges. It reinforces the presumption of innocence, and saves taxpayer money by avoiding costly legal proceedings against those who exercise their right to self-defense.

West Virginia Machine-gun Sales

West Virginia's Senate Bill 1071 (SB 1071), the "Public Defense and Provisioning Act," was introduced on February 23. Drafted by Gun Owners of America, it was introduced by state Senator Chris Rose (R-Monongalia), who holds an 83-percent Freedom Index score.

SB 1071 confronts unconstitutional federal infringements on the type of firearms citizens may possess. If enacted, it would allow for "the procurement and sale of machine guns to qualified members of the public." These firearm transfers would utilize the explicit exception in 18 U.S.C. §922(o)(2)(A) of the Hughes Amendment to the Firearm Owners' Protection Act of 1986, which states that the law does not apply to "a transfer to or by, or possession by or under the authority of, the United States or any department or agency thereof or a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision thereof."

West Virginia State Director for Gun Owners of America Alex Shay wrote, "SB 1071 is one of the most important opportunities our state has had in a long time to restore freedom, strengthen our economy, and show the rest of the country what responsible lawful leadership looks like."

The National Firearms Act of 1934 and the Hughes Amendment are unconstitutional infringements on the Second Amendment, and therefore should be nullified and repealed.

Denying certain firearms to citizens while allowing the military and law enforcement to easily acquire them violates both the protections established by the Founders and the intent of the Second Amendment, creating the very imbalance they warned against.

If federal authorities challenge this bill, which they likely will, states possess a powerful constitutional solution. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution states, "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof … shall be the supreme Law of the Land." Article VI also declares that state legislators, executive officials, and judges "shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution." When states nullify unconstitutional federal laws, they are not engaging in insubordination; they are faithfully upholding the Constitution.

Idaho and West Virginia legislators are adhering to the Constitution, and other states must follow. By protecting citizens who lawfully exercise their right to self-defense and restoring access to bearable arms, they honor the founding principle that rights come from God, not government. ■

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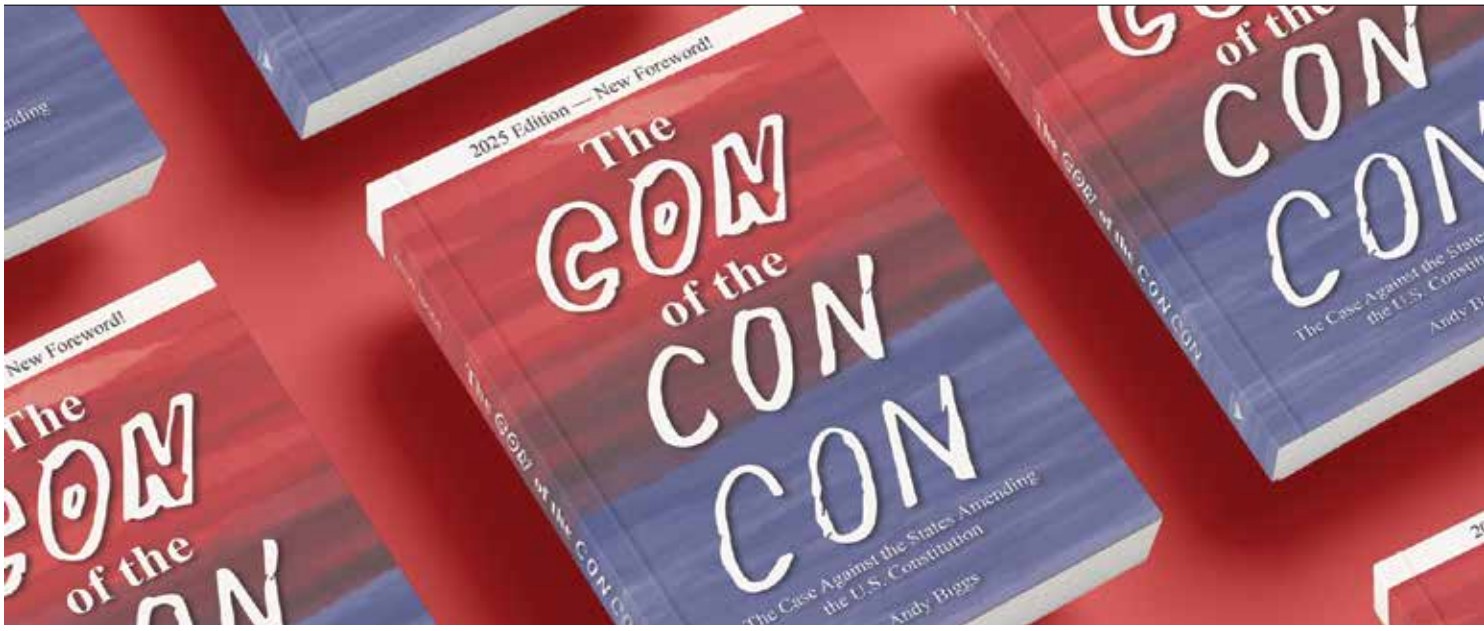

EXPOSING THE CON-CON CON

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

***The Con of the Con-Con*,** by Andy Biggs, Appleton, Wisconsin: Western Islands, 2025 edition, 144 pages, paperback.

In an era when constitutional fidelity is treated as an inconvenience rather than a sacred oath to be obeyed, the Republic owes a debt of gratitude to U.S. Representative Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) for writing, and to Western Islands Publishing for reviving, *The Con of the Con-Con* — a timely and unflinching warning against the seductive call for an Article V convention to "fix" our Constitution.

Biggs originally penned this work during Barack Obama's presidency, when federal overreach had reached an intolerable pitch. Yet his insights have proven prophetic, for the disease has worsened under successive administrations of both parties. In the new Foreword, Biggs reflects that "the Biden Administration was filled with more weaponization of federal institutions than at any time in American history," a statement that is less lamentation than diagnosis. His continued mistrust of Washington is not partisan cynicism; it is the realism of a statesman who has witnessed the metastasis of centralized power from the inside.

Since writing the book, Biggs has traveled the country debating proponents of a so-called Convention of States, has served as president of the Arizona Senate, and has been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives five times. Yet, despite the pressures of Washington, his convictions remain unchanged. "I haven't changed my position," he writes, "which was based on a mistrust of Congress as well as having watched states capitulate to the national government." That confession, distilled from experience, gives this reprint a gravitas that few political works achieve.

At its core, *The Con of the Con-Con* demolishes the naïve notion that a modern convention could somehow be corralled into modesty. Biggs reminds readers that Congress will never "quietly give up any of its power," and that there exists no enforceable mechanism to limit such a convention to specific amendments. Once Pandora's box is opened, every safeguard of liberty — from the Second Amendment to state sovereignty — would be vulnerable to erasure.

To those who blithely insist that "the states will save us," Biggs answers with history. It was, after all, the states themselves that ratified the 16th and 17th Amendments — twin betrayals that shifted taxation and senatorial election power to Washington and stripped the states of their constitutional leverage via the Senate.

His warning is not hypothetical; it is historical. The brilliance of this book lies not merely in its legal reasoning, but in its moral clarity. Biggs understands that the Constitution is not broken — it is ignored. To convene a modern convention under the control of today's political class is to hand the scalpel to the very surgeons who have already mutilated the patient. Reform will not come from rewriting the Founders' charter, but from reawakening the citizenry to enforce it.

Western Islands Publishing has done a great service in reissuing this indispensable work. The new edition preserves Biggs' original argument while situating it squarely in our perilous present, where the chorus for a "balanced budget amendment" or "term limits convention" grows louder but no less dangerous. The book belongs on the same shelf with the writings of James Madison and the Anti-Federalists, for it defends the Constitution not as a relic to be amended, but as a covenant to be kept.

In an age when political theater masquerades as patriotism, *The Con of the Con-Con* is a dose of tonic realism. Congressman Biggs' unwavering stand, echoed throughout this reprint, reminds Americans that the surest way to lose liberty is to surrender the Constitution to those who already refuse to obey it.

For defenders of the Republic, this book is not optional reading — it is required ammunition. ■

To order *The Con of the Con-Con*, see inside back cover.

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Sieving Through the Greenlandic Debate

by William P. Hoar

***So You Want to Own Greenland? Lessons from the Vikings to Trump*,** by Elizabeth Buchanan, London: Melville House, 2025, 202 pages, paperback.

Perhaps you have heard: The United States is going to invade Greenland, or grab it in some fashion, perhaps annex it, use some force to seize it, or maybe Washington will just buy that frozen place — somehow wresting control of the world's largest island from its 300 or so years of Danish rule (even though the island is 20 times the size of Denmark). It's been all over the networks and major newspapers for some time.

Not surprisingly, that's not what's in the works. Yet *So You Want to Own Greenland? Lessons from the Vikings to Trump* by Elizabeth Buchanan doesn't hide the fact that President Donald Trump did not "hide his intention" to "own" Greenland.

What this compact volume, which is both erudite and entertaining, does deliver is centuries of intricate history that is made understandable, while being spiced with more than a taste of wit. Where is this strategic North American island? As the author notes, it is hard to miss on most world maps — being "big, white and not at all green." (Some 80 percent of the island is covered with ice.) Most is north of the Arctic Circle, and the region's strategic aspect is evident in a bird's eye view, looking down on the Arctic (map #1 in the paperback, which also has eight pages of color photographs).

Author Elizabeth Buchanan points out, when discussing some of the international squabbling, that she doesn't have a horse in the race — not being Greenlandic, Danish, or American. She's an Australian. On one page you will learn something you probably didn't know, such has how cryolite is a key ingredient in making aluminum that was coveted for aviation purposes during World War II, meaning that it probably wasn't a coincidence that a U.S. naval base was opened in 1943 next to the largest cryolite mine in Greenland.

Then, on another page, readers bump into plenty of simple statistics, including that the island's entire population is around 57,000.

By comparison (we just checked), that total is less than those living in Hoboken, New Jersey, or Kalamazoo, Michigan. Yep, there are more Hobokenites or Kalamazooians (some crude folks use the term "Kalamazooligans") than all current Greenlanders.

The book reminds us that despite the physical size of the island, as schoolkids used to be taught, most maps of it are distorted. Buchanan tells "the flat-earthers among us" that we should blame "a guy from the 1500s — Mr [Gerardus] Mercator. Greenland is *not* the size of Africa. It is roughly three times the size of France, or one West Australia." Indeed, it is bigger than Texas, Alaska, and the Louisiana Purchase.

Buchanan, who holds a Ph.D., is a polar geopolitics expert who co-founded the polar warfare program at West Point (the common name for the United States Military Academy); was head of research for the Royal Australian Navy; and has been a visiting maritime fellow at NATO's Defense College. Her previous books are *Russian Energy Strategy in the Asia-Pacific* and *Red Arctic: Russian Strategy Under Putin.* She is currently a senior fellow with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a prominent independent, non-partisan think tank.

This book is an even-handed pact: The author tracks the big story, and the readers get the particulars, along with more than a few chuckles.

Since ownership of Greenland is a keynote aspect of this slim volume, which was published last year, Buchanan thinks readers (like prospective houseowners) should know, for instance, whether the home in question needs repairs; she also passes along information about its neighborhood. In many ways, she writes, this is "a buyer's guide to Greenland."

Discovered by Erik the Red

We get introduced to and then lose the Vikings relatively early in the tale, with a rundown on Erik the Red (born Erik Thorvaldsson circa A.D. 950 in Norway, he later joined his father and grew up in Iceland). Both father and son (at different times)

were punished for manslaughter. This is not a "George Washington"-style legend about the father of your nation. During his forced exile, Erik the Red, we read, "took to the sea and opted to explore the lands west of Iceland to kill the time." That's when he discovered Greenland.

Writes Buchanan: "After years of charting and exploration, Erik returned to Iceland to sell the allure of Greenland. Famine had hit Iceland at the time, so it was not necessarily a difficult proposition for many."

We jump quickly through the period of the Viking settlements. Erik died about A.D. 1003; the author doesn't take sides on whether he fell from his horse or caught a virus (as ancient history books suggest).

There are other ties to the past and more recent days in Buchanan's abridged pages. She implies that if Erik the Red did not relocate to Greenland, "establish a colony, and raise his family, then America might not have been discovered. Erik's son Leif Erikson is said to have sailed to North America in A.D. 1000 — long before old mate Christopher Columbus."

Understandably, there's a good bit on the relationship of Greenlanders and the Danes. According to a referendum in 2008, they *intend* to leave Danish rule. As readers find out, progress in this regard has been, dare we say, glacial.

Dealing With the Danes

There are also plenty of Danish and American snippets, because Donald Trump was not the first prominent American with a vision of acquiring the island. There have been "attempts to ignite U.S. interest in securing Greenland since at least 1867." You may also have heard that the administration of former President Harry Truman did make an offer of $100 million (in 1946) in gold; Denmark said no.

Then there was the time in 1910 (as also related by Buchanan) when the then-U.S. ambassador to Denmark had a "shrewd" plan for a three-way trade deal. Try this one on for size and imagine how it would be covered by CNN: In the first step, Denmark would cede Greenland to the United States; after that, Washington would give Denmark a few islands in the Philippines. Then Denmark would offer "said islands to Germany, which would result in Germany handing back the territory of Schleswig-Holstein which it had won in war from Denmark." For some reason, that inspired plan fizzled.

Some deals between the Danes and Americans did go through — such as in 1917 when the Danes sold the Danish West Indies (the Virgin Islands) to the United States. As the author recounts: "Ultimately, the US paid $25 million (in gold coins) for the Danish West Indies. Some mighty fine precedent," she adds.

In recent months (even more so after this book was written), the self-aggrandizing Danish government has been posturing (standing proudly on a scale between puffed-up and snooty) about how the United States (in the words of Denmark's prime minister) has "no right to annex" Greenland, strongly urging Americans to "stop the threats against a historically close ally" and insisting that Greenlanders "have said very clearly that they are not for sale." That, undoubtedly, played well on the home front.

The book under review paints a more complete picture. We are reminded of the island's colonial days, and how long they lasted, with Greenland's colonial chains supposedly being broken in 1953 (though a subsequent United Nations report stated that "large parts of the colonial structure and logic continued intact"). Pedants may dwell on the details. For others, the author's comparison of the 1979 Home Rule Act's schedule to a "Dummies Guide to Running a Nation" is probably enough. The move, no surprise, "turned the island into a nirvana for legislators."

Present-day high-and-mighty Danish rulers would probably prefer that the outside world not learn much about its vile policy of forced contraception that occurred in part because the Inuit Greenlanders (in the 1960s) had one of the highest birthrates in the world. (Buchanan doesn't mention this, but it was a chilling near-mirror to the Chinese Communist Party's official one-child policy.) The author recounts, early in the book, that about half of Greenland's fertile women and girls received coil implants through the 1970s "at the behest of the Danish government."

Of late, there have been a few accounts in American media about how the indigenous women were forcefully sterilized and indigenous children were taken from their families for forced adoptions and social experiments. Credit the *New York Post* (not the establishment *New York Times*) for its more complete coverage of the government policy that ran from the 1950s through the 1970s. A thorough *Post* account quoted, among others, a woman who was subjected to the process, with Danish doctors implanting an IUD in her womb as a child. Now an adult, she argues that "The Danes don't see us as humans." Decades later, there were lawsuits and scattered settlements; Denmark officially apologized in 2024.

WWII and Project Iceworm

There are two chapters in *So You Want to Own Greenland?* that recapitulate events involving this remote land and its role in geopolitics and military strategies during (and before) World War II and the Cold War. There were locals and Americans involved, as well as Nazis who constructed covert weather stations in northeast Greenland. At that point, what was called the "Greenland Army" had about "15 people powered by dog sleds." (An unusual wartime photograph — no, not of the Battle of the Bulge — shows perhaps a dozen German soldiers surrendering in Greenland.) What was primarily important then was data, especially atmospheric conditions in what was called the "Weather War" (1942-1944).

During that period, there were 13 U.S. bases in Greenland, and around 6,000 military personnel working and living on the island. At the time, the Greenlander population was less than 20,000. Today, the former U.S. Thule Air Base (established in 1943) is the only American one. It is now known as the Pittufik Space Base (pronounced bee-doo-FEEK), with 150 personnel dealing with missile defense and space surveillance in the northwestern part of the country.

There is a noteworthy section of the book describing how (after Denmark surrendered quickly to Nazi Germany) the exiled Danish ambassador in Washington signed a defense agreement with the United States, ostensibly authorizing America to protect Greenland. Per the author: "Of course upon whose authorization this was made remained clear as mud." (The story of Ambassador Henrik Kauffmann became the subject of a Hollywood movie called *The Good Traitor*.)

Changing gears, the author asks readers: "Did you know the US Army built a city under the Greenland icesheet?" She has a good bit about that in her chapter on Project Iceworm, though she is not as clear as she might be about the outcome of the John F. Kennedy administration's camp (with construction starting in 1959 and ending in 1960). The object was to deploy up to 600 medium-range ballistic missiles (with ranges of 1,000-3,000 kilometers) in Greenland. It was highly classified, of course. There are specifics about the "enviable" (really) living conditions in Camp Century. The camp, we read, was "inadvertently" rediscovered by a NASA team in 2024. That's a government plan for you.

Geography and location are key concerns. Here are a few more: Nuuk (the capital of Greenland) is closer to New York than to Copenhagen. During World War II, the Pentagon called the island the world's largest stationary aircraft carrier. More recently, nations must pay heed to the fact that the island is on the western edge of the chokepoint called the Greenland-Iceland-U.K. gap (also known as GIUK Gap), through which Russia's Northern Fleet submarines and surface vessels must pass to reach the North Atlantic Ocean. Then there are future considerations — since (in 2024), "for the first time in history, Chinese Coast Guard vessels entered the Arctic Ocean."

AP Photo / Evgeniy Maloletka

What's Next

The Trump administration's most recent interest in Greenland has dominated the news. The author's discussion, of necessity, can't stay up-to-date with that because her writing ended early in 2025. But the principles involved haven't changed all that much. And, as she does describe, this subject was also an important one for the first Trump administration, during which there was a bit of a slinging match with Denmark over the reopening of a U.S. consulate in Greenland (it happened nonetheless). There's some amusing byplay in the book about how the U.S. president added a bit of fuel to the fire by "tweeting an image of a mammoth gold Trump Tower consuming the streetscape of a Greenlandic town, coupled with the words, 'I promise not to do this to Greenland.'"

Buchanan also puts the second Trump administration's ownership bickering in context. The author asks rhetorically: "Is 'owning' Greenland really the end goal for Trump?"

Others have commented that Trump's bluster seems to be one of his favorite ways to prod negotiation. The tactic can be found in what must be a well-thumbed 1987 book. Being familiar with *The Art of the Deal*, the author suspects that "ownership" isn't the ultimate Trump objective.

What happened when the president made some recent impolitic remarks? For example, he trolled Denmark's capabilities to secure Greenland, saying, "Basically, their defense is two dog sleds." The left-wing (and financially floundering) *Washington Post* told the world that his comments "spread alarm across European capitals" and led to a "warning from Denmark that military intervention would effectively end the NATO alliance."

One move, possibly a tactical shift, was the announcement by Denmark (as reported in the non-leftist *Washington Times*) of "a $2.3 billion agreement with Greenland and the Faroe Islands to maintain 'sovereignty in the region.'" This would add "three new Arctic naval vessels, increased satellite capacity, and two long-range surveillance drones." Similarly, a prominent Danish politician, writing in *The New York Times*, added specifics about $14 billion being spent by Copenhagen for military security, in a piece called, "I'm in Denmark's Parliament. Mr. President, We're Already on Your Side."

Has the president just done what he advises — i.e., "maximize your options"? Early this year, Trump and the secretary-general of NATO announced a "diplomatic framework" for the United States, Denmark, and Greenland to begin negotiations.

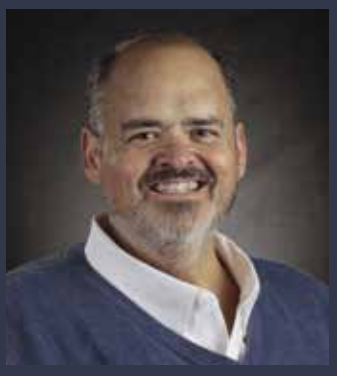
I'll be surprised if there is not more bartering for Greenland's rare-earth sector, especially since Communist China currently mines about 70 percent of such rare earths and refines some 90 percent of the world's total — used for electronics, missiles, autos, fighter jets, and more.

In conclusion, the book offers several scenarios, with the author leaning toward more of the same — a prolonged status quo as Greenland takes an independence pathway.

That's reasonable. Still, if Erik the Red could name this country Greenland to attract settlers, as history suggests, and the resultant Viking colonies could amass wealth through trade in ivory from walrus tusks and furs from seals, as Buchanan recounts, it seems likely that (well before Greenlandic independence) there will be an acceptable deal made by the longtime businessman who is America's chief executive. ■

WOLVERTON'S WARNING

NO LIES GO UNCHALLENGED. NO TYRANT GOES UNNAMED.



Joe Wolverton II, J.D. is The John Birch Society's constitutional law scholar

EDUCATION, NOT ESTABLISHMENT

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

A recent article attacking Tennessee's proposed bill requiring that the Bible be taught in public schools confidently declares: "Under the nation's Establishment Clause, the government is not allowed to establish or favor a specific religion."

That line is popular. It is repeated endlessly. And it is wrong. The First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…"

Notice the first word: Congress. Not "the states." Not "local school boards." Not "the people." Congress. That word is not decorative. It is dispositive.

The Establishment Clause restrains Congress alone. It was written to prevent the new federal government from creating a national church patterned after the Church of England. It was never intended to strip the states of their historic authority over matters of religion, education, and public morals. To pretend otherwise is to pretend the Framers were careless with their language. They were not.

To understand the clause, one must understand what "establishment" meant to those who wrote it.

In England, religion was not merely recognized; it was enforced. The crown alternated — often violently — between Roman Catholicism and Anglican Protestantism. Whichever sect held power, the machinery of the state was used to compel financial support. Tithes were extracted by law and, if necessary, at the point of a sword. Clergy were maintained by compulsory taxation. Conscience was subordinated to coercion. *That* was establishment.

The evil was not public acknowledgment of God. The evil was compulsion — state-enforced financial support of a national church and punishment of dissenters.

Early America knew that system well. Several Colonies maintained established churches, and dissenters could be fined or jailed for refusing to pay mandated tithes. Yet even before independence, resistance to religious establishment was growing.

In 1772, Benjamin Franklin explained that Americans left England "at their own expense" to secure "the free exercise of religion in their own way." The point was liberty of conscience, not hostility to religion.

Three years later, Alexander Hamilton distinguished between voluntary support and legal coercion. When religious contributions were freely given, there was no establishment. But when the law fixed their permanence and destroyed the free agency of the people, establishment reappeared.

James Madison later observed that in several Colonies — Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and much of New York — there were no religious establishments at all. Religion there was sustained by voluntary association and individual contribution.

These men did not advocate a naked public square scrubbed clean of Scripture. They opposed the sword of state compelling support for a national church. They defended freedom of conscience.

The First Amendment, therefore, was designed to prevent Congress from creating a federal church or interfering with the free exercise of religion. It was a structural protection of federalism as much as it was a protection of liberty. The new central government was given enumerated powers — few and defined. Authority over religion was not among them.

To twist that limitation on Congress into a mandate that states must expel the Bible from public education is to invert the Constitution.

Tennessee's proposed bill does not levy tithes. It does not compel adherence to a creed. It does not establish a national church. It simply permits the study of the Bible — one of the most influential books in Western civilization and in American history. Teaching the Bible as part of a curriculum is not establishment. It is education.

Those who cry "unconstitutional" rely on modern judicial gloss untethered from text, history, and the Founders' own words. But the Constitution still says what it says: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.

That restriction was never a gag order on the states, and it was never a declaration of war on Christianity. It did not command that we forget the Book that shaped our laws, our liberties, and our language.

Tennessee's bill stands well within the original meaning of the Constitution. And no amount of repetition can turn error into truth. ■

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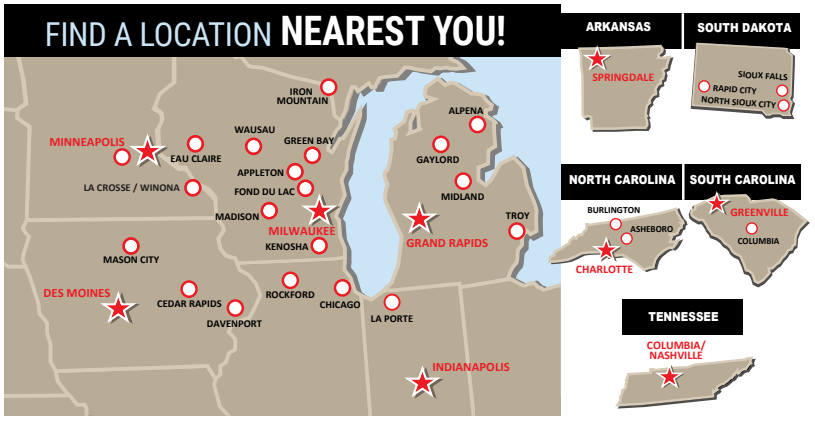

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THE LAST WORD

A Constitutional Crisis

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

The unilateral preemptive attack on Iran ordered by President Donald Trump constitutes not merely a controversial foreign policy decision, but a grave constitutional rupture. This is not a question of partisan preference or geopolitical strategy. It is a question of first principles: Who holds the power to declare war in the American Republic?

The Constitution answers that question with unmistakable clarity.

Article I, Section 8 vests in Congress — not the president — the power "to declare War," to grant letters of marque and reprisal, and to raise and support armies. Article II designates the president as commander in chief of forces once lawfully called into service. The distinction is neither accidental nor ornamental. It reflects the Framers' studied rejection of monarchical prerogative. Having thrown off a king who could plunge his subjects into war at will, they intentionally divided the sword from the hand that might wield it impulsively.

A preemptive strike against a sovereign nation absent an actual or demonstrably imminent attack upon the United States is not defensive repulsion; it is initiation of hostilities. And the initiation of hostilities is, by constitutional design, a legislative determination. The executive may repel sudden attacks. He may not create them and then claim necessity.

To treat the War Powers Resolution as a blank check, or to rely upon strained readings of prior Authorizations for Use of Military Force unrelated to the present circumstances, is to substitute statutory gymnastics for constitutional fidelity. No previous authorization against distinct actors can be transmuted into a perpetual, roving commission for executive warfare. The Constitution does not recognize a doctrine of inherited or implied war powers detached from specific congressional assent.

Separation of powers is not an academic abstraction. It is the structural safeguard of liberty. When the executive arrogates to himself the authority to decide both the necessity and the commencement of war, he collapses the careful architecture of checks and balances into a single will. That concentration of power was precisely what James Madison warned against when he observed that the executive is "the branch of power most interested in war and most prone to it." The remedy was not trust; it was division.

Some will argue that modern threats require modern elasticity. But constitutional limits do not dissolve in the presence of complexity. If anything, the destructive capacity of modern warfare intensifies the need for deliberation. When missiles replace muskets and escalation can engulf entire regions, the requirement that Congress debate, authorize, and assume responsibility becomes more — not less — urgent.

The danger here is not merely strategic overreach abroad; it is constitutional erosion at home. Every precedent of unilateral warmaking hardens into custom. Every unchallenged assertion of executive supremacy in foreign conflict becomes the baseline for the next administration. In time, the exception swallows the rule.

This is not a defense of Iran. It is a defense of the American constitutional order. The question is not whether that regime is hostile, dangerous, or morally culpable. The question is whether the president may, by his own determination, commit the Republic to armed conflict without the consent of the people's representatives.

If the Constitution means what it says — and if we still pretend to be governed by its text rather than by executive improvisation — then Congress *must* reassert its authority. Debate must precede bloodshed. Authorization must precede bombardment. Law must precede force.

Anything less is not strength; it is constitutional abdication disguised as resolve. ■

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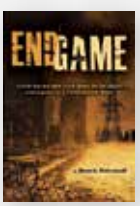

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